Pittsfield (MA) Parks Department Scrapbooks

Scanned through a Pittsfield Community Preservation Act Grant 2021

Pittsfield Parks Department Scrapbook 1988

City Hall Journal

Absenteeism policy hits a nerve

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski's absenteeism policy for volunteer city boards and commissions drew more than the usual fire from Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos. But the topic was apparently close to home.

The policy states that anyone who misses more than three consecutive meetings without a valid excuse should be replaced. Wojtkowski has made the policy optional, but Arlos quickly said the mayor was treating volunteers like "naughty schoolchildren" and discouraging public participation.

As it turns out, Arlos' wife, Alma, has been one of the most blatant offenders. According to records and members, she has been chronically absent from Park Commission meetings.

* * * *

Another showdown between Mayor Wojtkowski and the City Council may be brewing. And the topic will once again involve the Pyramid Companies' $2 million deal for water service to the Berkshire Mall in Lanesboro.

The deal in the first place caused plenty of handwringing: Wojtkowski wanted it and Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi didn't. After an initial loss the mayor won out and the deal was approved. The city received the first part of its payments — $1 million in cash — last month.

During the debate on the issue, Councilor at large James R. McCaffrey suggested amending the deal to say that the money would go to lower the water rates; it was a way to make a "no" vote more politically difficult (who, after all, is for high water rates?). But Stracuzzi picked up on the notion and filed a petition saying that's where the money should go, and the Finance Committee, which he chairs, backed him last week.

Wojtkowski has dismissed the idea outright. At a press conference she held Friday to unveil her $60.3 million budget, Wojtkowski said she had plans for Pyramid's $1 million. The use of the funds to reduce water rates for one year is "ill-advised," she said, because it would result in a reduction only for one year. Rates are expected to jump 30 percent this year.

The Finance Committee's recommendation is before the full Council. As usual, Wojtkowski has the final say.

* * * *

Don't look for Office of Community and Economic Development Commissioner David A. Maynard to be around much longer. He's quietly looking at new jobs and may leave within a few weeks.

Mayor Wojtkowski announced last month she was replacing Maynard with development specialist Kenneth E. Walto. Although the switch is not scheduled to occur until July, Maynard has been interviewing since his fate became known and intends to leave well before that time.

Wojtkowski said Maynard still has all his powers and authorities as OCED commissioner, but all indications are that he's more in limbo than in charge. Maynard has been kept in the dark on several OCED projects and was all but frozen out of the OCED/University of Massachusetts report on the local economy.

The new man is getting all the prestige. New York Times stringer John A. Townes quoted Walto, not Maynard, in last Sunday's snapshot piece on Pittsfield's economic status — even if the newspaper's caption under a photo of the Sprague Electric mill in North Adams said the mill complex was in Pittsfield. Well, nobody's perfect.

4/24/88

Park neighbors want to end night use by partying youths

PITTSFIELD — Residents who live near the city's parks want to restrict access after dark to discourage stereo-toting, young beer drinkers.

Last night, David Wojtkowski of 593 Lakeway Drive, representing the Lake Onota Preservation Society, said that group favors the installation of a gate to prevent vehicles from driving into the pavilion and parking lot area after night. The society, said Wojtkowski, favors installing the gate at a point in the roadway that would still allow access to fishermen. He said last summer's campaign by Pittsfield police was successful, and that by summer's end, area residents were less apprehensive about walking in the park at twilight.

Wojtkowski was one of a handful of residents who turned out last night to offer suggestions to three of the city's boards, the Parks Commission, Planning Board and Conservation Commission, in composing an open-space plan. The suggestions will be incorporated in a plan that will, in turn, enable the city to quality for state funding through urban self-help grants.

Funding for improvements now about to begin on Burbank Park was obtained through that program, but the open-space plan adopted at that time has since expired, according to Robert Mellace of the city's planning department.

Lawrence Allessio of 24 Greenings Ave. said he would like to see Brattlebrook Park restricted to minimize noise, litter, speeding traffic and dust.

Vincent J. Hebert, the city's commissioner of community services, said the commission should reevaluate the overall use of the Brattlebrook area.

Parks Commission Chairman Clifford J. Nilan said the commissions will try to compile the report soon, but will include suggestions that residents respond promptly.

William J. Loucks of 81 Allengate Ave. said he and others concerned with the dilapidated condition of the greenhouse at Springside Park would like to provide materials for replacing part of the roof and to have the city help with the labor. Similarly, Loucks said, the group would like to provide trees and to have the city help plant them to create an arboretum.

5/18/88

The BMC-park deal

The Pittsfield Park Commission has been put in a tough position by Berkshire Medical Center with the latter's proposal to use a section of Wahconah Park as a parking area to offset the loss of a lot that would become the new site of the Neighborhood Health Clinic. The clinic is losing its current home on upper North Street to satisfy the hospital's need for more parking space and, eventually, for a site for the $10 million building that Berkshire Physicians & Surgeons plans to erect. The Park Commission's split, 3-2 vote to grant BMC permission to use park space for parking reflects the desire of members not to throw a monkey wrench in the health-clinic plan but, at the same time, not to set a precedent for private use of public park land. The strict conditions that the commission put on the arrangement should help ensure that the question does not arise too often in the future.

7-21-88

DPW budget gets initial approval

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The City Council gave preliminary approval to the proposed $7.8 million public works budget last night, but opposition appears to growing to Public Works Commissioner David R. Spiewak's 8 percent salary increase.

Other salaried department heads are receiving a 5 percent raise, and other city employees, 4 percent. Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski said she wants to pay Spiewak more because he will soon have the added responsibility of supervising the city garage.

Several councilors last night noted that outgoing Maintenance Director William Thornton never received an increase in pay when the garage was shifted to that department from public works several years ago.

Garage control

The councilors also indicated that the pay raise — from $40,495 to $44,524 a year — might be opposed further along in the budget process. The raise and the rest of the package received only preliminary approval last night.

The transfer of control of the city garage may also become an issue. Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters said she "can envision some problems" in terms of preventing misuse of garage equipment and thievery.

"The reason we pulled it out from public works is because we had a lot of problems there," she said. "There was thievery, and it was a country club. It was open all weekend, and people worked on their own cars. And anybody who didn't want to work went to the city garage to hide."

Spiewak said the transfer of garage control would benefit his department because most of the vehicles repaired there are public works-related. He also said he would maintain strict control of the garage and change some operations, including who is authorized to enter the West Housatonic Street facility.

Bridge maintenance

The rest of Spiewak's budget includes a proposal to spend $33,800 to pay two laborers to maintain the city's deteriorating bridges, $7,000 on a personal computer for the office, $400,000 for roads and sidewalks and $155,000 for new equipment.

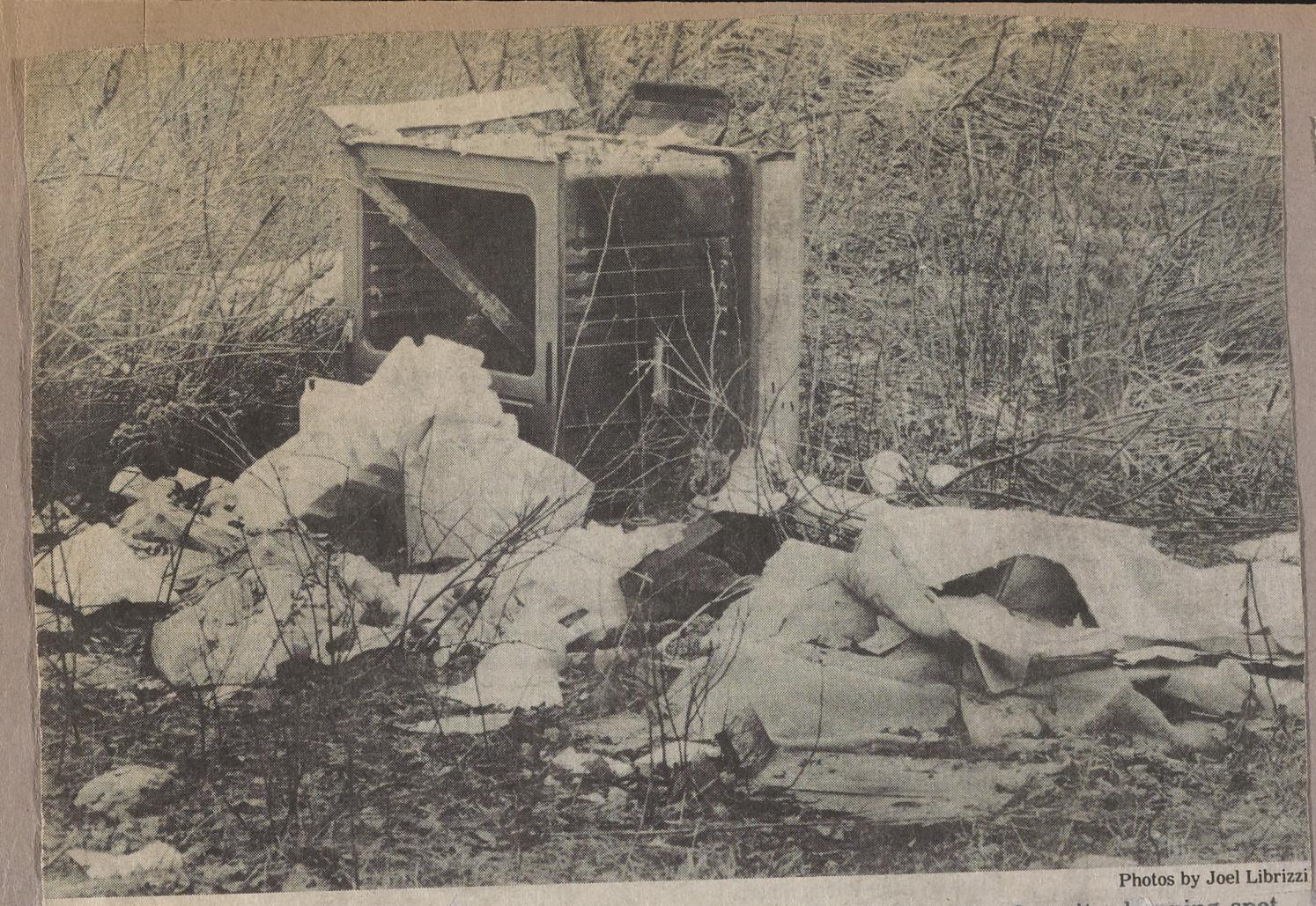
Spiewak originally asked for $500,000 for new equipment but agreed to a cut by the mayor, saying he was counting on money from the expected budget surplus to beef up that account later on.

"It seems to me there are a lot of promises being made," commented Councilor at large Imelda C. LaMountain, recalling that the police and fire chiefs had made similar statements about big-ticket items in their budgets.

The Council also last night gave preliminary approval to the $3.8 million public utilities budget, which includes $85,000 for the first phase of environmentally monitoring the Hubbard Avenue landfill but no new personnel or capital improvement items.

"It's a maintenance budget," said Public Utilities Commissioner William L. Forestell after fielding questions from the Council. "It's not a fix-it budget."

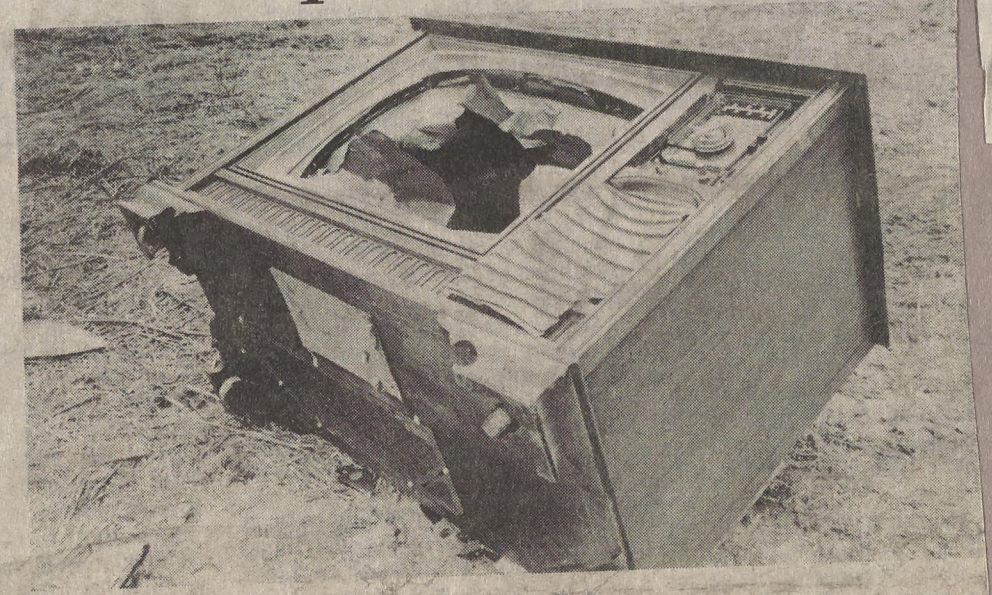
5/17/88



Photos by Joel Librizzi

SPRINGSIDE PARK, as the pictures above and below show, has become a favorite dumping spot for the more aggressive litterbugs.

Volunteers to clean up the city's parks



PITTSFIELD — Homelessness, hunger and environmental decay will all be confronted Saturday from 9 to noon during Pittsfield's first "Hunger Cleanup."

Similar to a traditional walk-a-thon, the cleanup raises money by gathering pledges for work performed to clean up Burbank Park at Onota Lake, Pontoosuc Park and Springside Park. The Berkshire Community Action Council Family Shelter, located at 292 West St., will receive funds raised by the three-hour project.

Students from Berkshire Community College and residents of Pittsfield have teamed up with the Parks Department to participate in the cleanup, a nationwide activity which last year raised over $50,000. According to Susan Stella, Pittsfield's Recreation Supervisor, "The Parks Department is very excited to see the youth being community-oriented again."

At BCC, the cleanup is being organized by the school's Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group chapter. The group works at the state and local level for environmental preservation, hunger relief and consumer protection.

According to Jon Schoenwald, the chapter's organizer, "There's a growing homelessness and hunger problem in America. The cleanup works to solve these problems by raising money which is divided between local organizations, in this case the Family Shelter, and national and world relief groups."

Volunteers are still needed to help clean up the parks and to gather sponsors.

"The beauty of the project is it both helps the homeless and cleans up our environment. It's a great opportunity for anyone who cares about their park and community to spend a Saturday morning helping to improve their own and others' lives," said Schoenwald.

Individuals and businesses who are interested in sponsoring, participating or both may call Schoenwald at the college.

4/11/88

Park Square eyesore

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The county takes great pride in maintaining the courthouse lawn, which is considered the premier courthouse lawn in the state of Massachusetts. The effort and expense expended by the county on maintaining it is essential because it is part of the integrity of Park Square. The tourists are thrilled at the beauty and maintenance of the lawn.

The only blemish is the shabbily constructed Information Booth on an unkempt portion of city property. I have repeatedly asked the chairman of Pittsfield Parks Committee, Clifford Nilan, to eliminate this blemish, not only for the appearance of the courthouse lawn but because it also affects the appearance of Park Square.

The unfinished Information Booth, aside from its appearance has become a refuge for all types of animals because they did not put lattice-work around the bottom, which would prevent animals from getting beneath the building.

I am bringing this to the attention of the public in the hope that city officials will share in the pride of the courthouse lawn and Park Square with the rest of the citizens of Pittsfield by cleaning up this mess.

JAMES C. MONTEROSSO
76 East St.
Pittsfield

The writer is superintendent of county buildings. 8-1-88

Meeting to seek new ideas for Burbank Park

PITTSFIELD — The Parks Commission and Conservation Commission will meet jointly at Springside House Monday night at 7 to elicit ideas from residents on prospective improvements to Burbank Park on Onota Lake.

The commissions are seeking ideas to incorporate in an application for state funds to start the second phase of work on the lakeside park. This second phase, according to planners, is envisioned as including reconstruction of the parking lot and portions of the road, landscaping, erosion control, and improvements to the drainage system.

Work began last month on the first phase of work, funded with a $425,700 urban self help grant from the state's Division of Conservation Services. The first phase of the project includes construction of a bathhouse pavilion, a picnic area, playground area, new beach, handicapped ramp, and signs and landscaping. Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield is the contractor. 6/5/88

25 Years Ago

With high summer temperatures prevailing, more than 500 turned out in Park Square in Pittsfield to listen to the yellow-jacketed Eagles band perform in the first free concert of the season. The concert, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation through the recording fund of Musicians Local 109, was directed by John A. Noonan. 6/7/88

25 YEARS AGO

The 10th annual three-day horse-show tournament sponsored by the Pittsfield Department of Parks and Recreation ended with Crane and Abby Lodge playgrounds taking first place positions. The midget division was won by Ricky Russo and Mark Massaconi, both of Crane. Andrew Anthony and Dick Sweeney, both of Abby Lodge, took first place in the junior divisions. 7-25-88

FINANCE
Director: Daniel L. Bianchi

Staff : 14
Budget :
$669,686

PUBLIC WORKS
Commissioner: David R. Speiwak

Staff: 185
Budget:
$2,359,501

PUBLIC UTILITIES
Commissioner: William L. Forestell

Staff: 55
Budget:
$3,686,230

SCHOOLS
Superintendent: Robert L. LaFrankie

Staff: 883
Budget:
$22,000,000

POLICE
Chief: William M. Dermody

Staff: 127
Budget:
$3,703,167

FIRE
Chief: Gerald F. Keehnle

Staff: 119
Budget:
$3,943,103

TAX COLLECTOR
Collector: David J. Polcaro

Staff: 5
Budget:
$122,925

DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner: David A. Maynard

Staff: 8
Budget:
$1,200,000
(federal)

CITY CLERK
Jacqueline M. Sacchetti

Staff: 5
Budget:
$120,266

HEALTH
Commissioner: Louis A. Bolduc

Staff: 22
Budget:
$386,977

DATA PROCESSING
Manager: George A. Howes

Staff: 4
Budget:
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ASSESSORS
Chairman: Richard M. Bordeau

Staff: 6
Budget:
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LEGAL
City Solictor: Michael J. McCarthy

Staff: 3
Budget:
$108,379

BUILDING
Commissioner: Robert J. Pomeroy Jr.

Staff: 9
Budget:
$242,149

PLANNING
Planner: David P. Hathaway

Staff: 4
Budget:
$77,063

COMMUNITY SERVICES
Director: Vincent J. Hebert

Staff: 23
Budget:
$625,723

PURCHASING
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Staff: 3
Budget:
$77,236

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Director: Gilda H. Palano

Staff: 6
Budget:
$351,714

REGISTRAR of VOTERS
Supervisor: Pauline M. Giacoletti

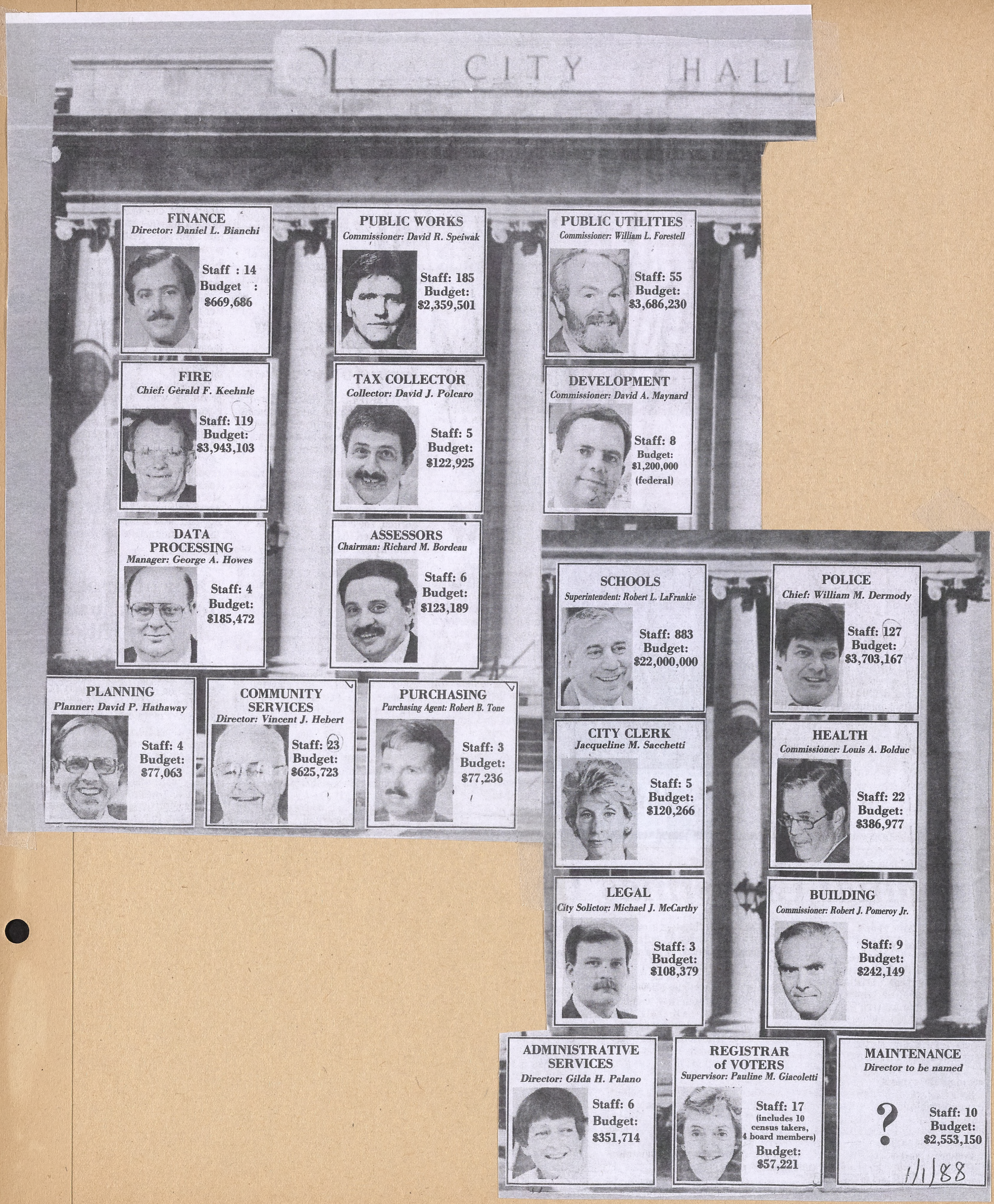
Staff: 17
(includes 10 census takers, 4 board members)
Budget:
$57,221

MAINTENANCE
Director to be named

?

Staff: 10
Budget:
$2,553,150

1/1/88



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1/1/88

Managing City Hall

Stack of problems awaits Anne Wojtkowski

7.

By Anthony Flint

PITTSFIELD — Like a new boss starting out in any business, Mayor-elect Anne Everest Wojtkowski will face a series of major in-house challenges when she takes charge at City Hall Monday.

Interviews with department heads and staff show that while some City Hall offices are functioning well, others are seriously flawed in terms of daily operation, manpower and organization and are in urgent need of managerial attention.

In the engineering office, for example, the city's only licensed surveyor, City Engineer Samuel M. Slack, is retiring this month, leaving four of seven budgeted positions in that department empty. Three positions have been empty for more than a year because of low pay.

DPW in state of flux

The assessor's office, long a political hotbed because of controversial former department heads, is short on physical space, which is hindering efficiency and productivity. Chairman Richard M. Bordeau said the office also needs a third full-time assessor.

The list goes on. The legal and planning operations are overextended, roads aren't plowed promptly, and some of the city's routine bills aren't being paid on time.

The situation at 70 Allen St., according to those interviewed, is the result of two factors: continued adjustments forced by Proposition 2½, the 1980 tax cap law, and the management style of Mayor Charles L. Smith.

Smith, who is leaving to become a consultant after four consecutive terms, tended to concentrate on large projects such as water purification, the downtown development and industrial park expansion. He also focused on calls from residents on minor matters such as potholes or fallen trees.

In terms of the hands-on business of running City Hall, however, those interviewed said Smith was generally content with the status quo, responding to in-house problems only when they arose and were severe.

Smith said his "first obligation was to the people of this city, not the people who work at City Hall." But some of last fall's mayoral candidates, addressing what they saw as a lack of creative administrative leadership, complained of "crisis management."

The 1983 Cresap, McCormick and Paget management report did much to improve day-to-day operations and inter-department relations. But as City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi points out, the aim of the Cresap study was to cut costs because of Proposition 2½, not necessarily improve efficiency or productivity.

The engineering office, a division of the DPW, is a good example of what Wojtkowski will inherit at City Hall. In many ways it has been limping along for a long time and needs immediate decisions on policy and staffing.

The office is budgeted for seven positions, of which four — including a two-man surveying

Managing
Continued on Page B5

1/1/88

Mayor's appointments coming before Council

PITTSFIELD — The new mayor meets the new City Council tomorrow night at 7:30. Among the items on the agenda are the nominations of five new appointees for City Hall jobs and a request for a letter to the governor in support of the proposed contemporary art museum in North Adams.

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski has submitted to the Council a letter to Governor Michael S. Dukakis praising the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

"Because of the regional importance of this endeavor in providing sustained economic development and in further identifying Berkshire County as a national center for the arts," Wojtkowski wrote in her petition, "I strongly encourage you to join with me in a reconfirmation of your support of this important enterprise."

An attached "fact sheet" projects that the museum complex will promote a county-wide spending increase of $21 million, will provide jobs and will mean that tourists visiting the desirable attractions both north and south of the city will at least pass through Pittsfield.

The letter itself urges Dukakis to support the project, which is calls "a large step" that will "assure the future economic stability of every community within Berkshire County."

15 appointments

Wojtkowski also has placed 15 appointments on tomorrow's agenda, but 10 of them are actually reappointments, including City Solicitor Michael J. McCarthy, Building Commissioner Robert J. Pomeroy Jr., Director of Community Services Vincent J. Hebert and Comissioner of Public Utilities William L. Forestell.

The new appointees are Daniel L. Bianchi, assistant to the mayor for administration and finance; Gilda H. Palano, director of administrative services; David R. Speiwak, commissioner of public works; Robert B. Tone, purchasing agent, and Donald W. Davis, city treasurer.

Some opposition is expected especially in the case of Speiwak, who would replace the popular Ralph Lake.

Each appointment would become effective Jan. 18 and run until January, 1990.

Perhaps prompted by the turnover, Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi has proposed that the Council ask the mayor to have a detailed salary survey performed for all city department head positions. The comparisons would be made, Stracuzzi suggested in his petition, with cities of similar size and positions of similar duties.

Another of Wojtkowski's requests of the new board is for a salary raise for the purchasing agent. The additional $3,448 she requests would bring Tone's salary up to the low $30,000-range, equal to what he earns now as purchasing manager for Berkshire Medical Center.

1/11/88

RECREATION SUPERVISOR. (General). Full time, must have eighteen months paid experience in recreation or a B.S. in either Recreation, Physical Education, or a related field and some paid recreation experience. Apply to: The Department of Recreation, 874 North Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201, between 9:00am and 5:00pm., Monday - Friday. Deadline for filing is Wednesday, March 30, 1988. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

2/29/88

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF PITTSFIELD
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for replacement of backstops, various sites, see special provisions.

Endorsed "Proposal" and addressed to the Purchasing Agent, Room 102, City Hall, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201, will be received at the office of the Purchasing Agent until 2:00 p.m., March 4, 1988, and at that time and place will be publicly opened and read. Mark envelope "Sealed bid enclosed—Bid No. P88-034".

Specification and Proposal forms and information of written Affirmative Action Program may be obtained at the office of the City Purchasing Agent.

The City of Pittsfield is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Minimum wages (if applicable) will apply under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Sections 26 through 27.

The City of Pittsfield Purchasing Agencreserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Also reserved is the right to reject, for cause, any bid in whole or in part, if in its judgement the best interests of the City of Pittsfield will be served. The City of Pittsfield Purchasing Agent shall be the sole judge of whether or not items proposed to be supplied are "similar" and approved "equal" to those specified, subject to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 39M.

ROBERT B. TONE, JR., C.P.M.
Purchasing Agent

2/20/88

Applicants sought for summer jobs

PITTSFIELD — The city's Department of Recreation has announced that March 25 is the deadline for filing applications for summer employment.

Jobs are available at the playgrounds and beaches, in the special needs program and park police, and as seasonal laborers.

Applications may be obtained at the Department of Recreation, 874 North St., during office hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2/24/88

Applications sought for recreation jobs

PITTSFIELD — Applications for summer employment are being sought by the Department of Recreation.

Positions include playground leaders, special-needs playground leaders, lifeguards, park maintenance laborers and park police. The department said the number of positions to be filled will be determined by the level of the department budget for fiscal 1989, which begins July 1.

Forms may be obtained between 9 and 5 at the department office at 874 North St.

1/6/88

Wojtkowski: No 'fancy steps'

Joel Librizzi
Anne Everest Wojtkowski
The first days

By Anthony Flint

PITTSFIELD — Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski has hit the ground running in her first week in office, getting organized, dealing with reporters, meeting with department heads — and hearing out a 72-year-old man who says his apartment isn't getting enough heat.

"I think it really hit me when I pulled in to park yesterday and I saw I was next to the sign that said 'Mayor,' " Wojtkowski said yesterday. "That's when I really realized what I'm doing!"

Wojtkowski, who took the oath of office Monday, said that for the first few months, "all of us will be learning the job."

"We're not going to be doing any fancy steps," she said.

Her first day in office began at 8:15 a.m. Monday. She and her secretary unpacked four cardboard boxes before the inauguration ceremony at 10:15. She also moved the mayor's desk from the northwest corner of the office to the southwest.

City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi was the first to visit the new digs that morning. There would be a slight delay in the inaugural proceedings, he said. The microphones had blown out when the big pots for post-ceremony coffee were plugged in.

After the ceremony, Wojtkowski had sandwiches carted in and had lunch with family and appointees. In the afternoon she met with Assessor Richard M. Bordeau and retiring Finance Director Lawrence A. Grizey Jr., followed by Stracuzzi for a review of City Council issues and procedures.

The day wasn't over when that meeting ended at 5:45 p.m., however. The next stop was the Berkshire Hilton for an inaugural reception, clogged with more than 400 people. By the time Wojtkowski had stopped shaking hands, the hors d'oeuvres were gone; dinner came as a bite at Patrick's Pub afterward, and the day was over at 10:45 p.m.

Yesterday, Wojtkowski, 52, on leave from her job as a professor at Berkshire Community College, met with Community Services Director Vincent J. Hebert and attempted to complete paperwork on the appointments she is submitting for City Council review Tuesday.

The appointments are for a new purchasing agent, finance director, personnel director and public works director. She also intends to appoint a new maintenance director but has not selected anyone for that post as yet.

The new mayor also met with City Clerk Jacqueline M. Sacchetti to review how to submit communications to the Council and other

'Fancy steps' 1/6/88
Continued on Page A8

'Fancy steps' out at first, mayor says

Continued from Page A1

procedural matters.

Three reporters also showed up for interviews yesterday: one from WGGB-TV (Channel 40) from Springfield, one from The Eagle and one from the North Adams Transcript.

That's all pretty heady stuff. Today Wojtkowski will get a taste of another side of the job — dealing with people's problems. She said she will meet with a 72-year-old man who called for an appointment to discuss the lack of adequate heat in his apartment. 1/6/88

Mayor's appointments given honeymoon ride

By Lynne A. Daley

PITTSFIELD — The proverbial honeymoon between the new mayor and City Council kicked off swimmingly last night, as Anne Everest Wojtkowski saw every one of her appointments win unanimous affirmation.

"It isn't always going to be this easy," a jovial Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi told Wojtkowski following the approval of her 15 appointments, of which five are new.

"Not from this side either, Angelo," an equally happy Wojtkowski replied from her front-row seat.

Even the appointment as commissioner of public works of David R. Spiewak of Stephentown, N.Y., which was thought to be the least popular of the new mayor's appointments, was conducted without a murmur of dissent. The outgoing commissioner, Ralph W. Lake, was present at last night's meeting but left immediately after the vote, during the applause for his successor.

Two-year terms

Also receiving applause for their new posts were Robert B. Tone, the city's new purchasing agent; Daniel L. Bianchi, the mayor's assistant for administration and finance; Donald W. Davis, city treasurer, and Gilda Palano, director of administrative services.

In addition, Wojtkowski reappointed and the council approved David J. Polcaro Jr. as tax collector, Michael J. McCarthy as city solicitor, Robert J. Pomeroy Jr. as building commissioner, Vincent J. Hebert as director of community services and William L. Forestell as commissioner of public utilities.

Each appointee will serve a two-year term.

Also passing last night was an appropriation for an additional $3,448 to upgrade the salary of the purchasing agent from $29,750 to about $33,200. That amount is approximately equal to Tone's pay at Berkshire Medical Center, where he worked as a buyer.

Wojtkowski's only other communication to the Council, aside from routine appropriations of money by departments, was a request that a letter be sent to Gov. Michael S. Dukakis pledging support for the proposed Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams. That too, passed unanimously.

Items referred from the Council to the mayor included a measure for a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Elberon and Ridgeway avenues, which was vetoed by former Mayor Charles L. Smith last month.

Also referred to Wojtkowski was a proposal from Stracuzzi that a detailed survey be conducted of other cities to determine the equity of salaries paid to city department heads.

And referred with the Council's approval was a proposal from Councilor at Large Peter G. Arlos that the city garage on West Housatonic Street be returned to the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. This, said Arlos, would improve repairwork done on city vehicles and machinery. Councilors John P. Anderson Jr. and Cynthia L. Betters voted against the petition. 1/13/88

Stella leaving recreation post

PITTSFIELD — Susan Stella has resigned as recreation supervisor for the city's playgrounds, effective May 13. She presented her resignation to the Parks Commission Feb. 1.

Stella is leaving the post she has held since May 1986 because she and her husband, Craig, are expecting a baby in June.

The Department of Recreation is seeking applicants for the full-time position. Deadline for applications is March 30.

Stella is a 1985 graduate of the State University of New York at Oneonta and is studying for a master's degree in computer education. She was formerly on the staff of the Williamstown Day Care center. 3/2/88

Easter bunny waiting for assignments 3/2/88

PITTSFIELD — The city's Department of Recreation is lining up visits of "Twitch," the Easter bunny, that will be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30.

The visits are available for day care groups and kindergarten classes in the city. To arrange for a visit call the department between 9 and 5 Monday through Friday.

The deadline for making these arrangements is Friday, March 25.

Joel Librizzi

Christmas pyre

1/4/88

Thousands of Christmas trees go up in smoke during Pittsfield's annual tree burning yesterday in the parking lot at Wahconah Park. The American Legion, Pittsfield Fire Department and National Guard handled the burning.

The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, January 7, 1988 — B3

Joel Librizzi

Building ice

Assisted by frigid temperatures, the Pittsfield Recreation Department has begun its annual task of creating a skating rink on the Second Street common. Overall, making the rink is a three-day job. The temperature yesterday — a breezy 16 degrees at warmest — was so bone-chilling that workers spraying water rotated in half-hour shifts in order to avoid frostbite. Shown in the photo are Gary Carnute, in foreground, and his cousin, Keith Carnute.

Fitness day set for May 7

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation will hold a "Shape up Pittsfield Day" at Clapp Park on Saturday, May 7, from 11 to 3.

The local event will include presentations by physical fitness and health-related groups, tables displaying brochures about fitness centers and programs, and health food displays and sales.

Fitness professionals will conduct half-hour group participation activities.

Deadline for registration is April 22 for those wishing to distribute informational materials or present demonstrations, according to Susan M. Stella, recreation supervisor. Registration may be made by contacting her at the department, 874 North St.

Registrations will be confirmed and table areas assigned by May 2, Stella said.

The Council on Physical Fitness and Sports has declared May National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. The first week, May 1-7 is designated National Physical Education Sports Week, with the theme "Shape up America."

4/15/88

CORRECTIONS

Because of lack of local interest, the Pittsfield Department of Recreation has canceled plans for its Shape Up Pittsfield Day, a special fitness program scheduled for May 7. A story in yesterday's Eagle described the program incorrectly and implied that only part of it had been called off.

4/26/88

Appointees to city boards given unanimous approval by council

By Anthony Flint

PITTSFIELD — The City Council unanimously approved another round of Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski's appointments at its meeting Tuesday night.

Elizabeth H. Cronin replaces Mildred Billings on the Personnel Review Board. Four out of five members of that panel are now Wojtkowski appointees.

Roxanne Spence, a Wojtkowski campaign worker, replaces Anthony Massimiano on the Park Commission. Roger B. Sloper, a longtime commission member, was reappointed.

Ross replaces Hekler

William C. Ross was confirmed as a member of the School Building Needs Commission, replacing former School Committee Chairman Toby L. Hekler, who resigned from the panel.

George Noble, Gordon H. Reynolds and William I. Wheelock were reappointed as members of the Airport Commission. Wheelock is chairman.

The council confirmed Jeffrey P. Rayner as an associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Barbara A. Hanger as a member of the Mobile Home Park Rent Control Board, replacing Nicholas J. Speranzo, who is chairman of the Pittsfield Housing Authority.

Council appointments

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi also won passage of a number of appointments.

Ward 4 Councilor Bernard J. Goclowski will represent the Council on the Conservation Commission. Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters will serve on the Health Advisory Board, and Ward 5 Councilor John P. Anderson Jr., a freshman, will serve on the Traffic Commission.

In other assignments, Goclowski is Parks Commission liaison; Ward 1 Councilor Caroline M. Bresnahan, liaison to the School Committee; freshman Ward 3 Councilor Eric S. Biss, Cable Television Commission; Councilor at large James R. McCaffrey, School Building Needs Commission; Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Commission; Betters, Affordable Housing Committee, and Anderson and McCaffrey, Human Services Commission.

Human services panel

The Council also approved the other 19 members of the Human Services Commission. They are: Jane Lawless, business manager for the state Department of Social Services; Bonnie Berg, a social worker; Rhoda Caesar from the Pittsfield school system; James Ciullo, director of the state Department of Mental Retardation; Marietta Rapetti-Cawse, Jean Davis and Nancy Travia, all teachers, and Charles Fezzie, director of respiratory therapy at Hillcrest Hospital.

Also, Susan Kelley, a board member in the Office for Children; Joseph Vanhoenacker and Toby Landa, both from the state Department of Mental Health; Joseph McGovern of the Boys' Club; Laurie Nichols from Berkshire Medical Center; Lewis Rudolph of the United Way; Jay Sacchetti, clinical director at Meridian Associates; William Stickney, director of the Adult Learning Center; Edward Van Dyke, a BMC retiree; Jon Lifvergren and John Zimmerman.

City report available at city clerk's office

PITTSFIELD — Copies of the city of Pittsfield's annual report, distributed to residents as an Eagle insert last week, are also available at the city clerk's office in City Hall, Raymond J. Librizzi, spokesman for the annual report committee said yesterday.

He also called attention to a typographical error in the report concerning the License Board. The report stated that the board collected a little less than $133,000 for liquor licenses during the 1987-88 fiscal year and that almost $414,000 was for miscellaneous permits. The amount of $14,000, not $414,000 was for miscellaneous permits, he said.

9-20-88

DEQE official attends session on Wahconah St. gasoline leak

By Steve Moore

PITTSFIELD — A recurring strong odor of gasoline and uncertainty about where the underground spread of gasoline is going were the chief concerns aired yesterday morning at a City Hall meeting called by Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters to brief residents on a leak from an underground storage tank at Clement's Getty at 186 Wahconah St.

Catherine Wanat of the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering's emergency response section said that most of the gasoline that has leaked from a tank on Wahconah Street for the past 10 months has been recovered and what remains is being removed from the ground at a slow but steady rate.

In addition, she said, work is proceeding with unusual speed to find out how far and in what direction the underground contamination has spread.

But in spite of Wanat's favorable report on the cleanup of the more than 2,200 gallons of unleaded gasoline lost between last spring and last fall, all the dozen people at the meeting still had major complaints about the situation.

Several, including Lawrence Shea and John J. Shea Jr. of Shea's of Pittsfield, said that strong gasoline odors have returned in recent weeks because the firm hired to conduct testing for the Getty Petroleum Corp. has not been changing the activated charcoal filters in the recovery and venting system as often as the system requires.

Donald Launt, owner of Quality Auto Body at 164 Wahconah St., appealed to Wanat to install another monitoring well on his property, which abuts the Getty station. There are seven wells now on the Getty property.

Wanat said that because the indicated slope of the ground water is to the south and southwest, she could not order Getty to add a well in a direction apparently out of the path of the advancing plume.

Launt argued that because the leak was only a few feet from his property line, it would make sense to see if the gasoline had gone that far. Wanat said that DEQE must make its decisions based on accepted engineering practice if it is to maintain credibility with the professional community. But if the current round of testing shows that the plume has changed direction toward Launt's business, Wanat said, she would recommend such an additional well.

Launt said he may have a test pit dug at his own expense to see if his property is contaminated. He said that fumes in his building have been so heavy at times that it has been impossible to work there.

A test pit dug in December for Daniel J. Whittaker, owner of Whittaker Auto Sales at 165 Wahconah St., turned up a heavy concentration of gasoline.

Whittaker found the contamination when he conducted a Chapter 21E test as a prerequisite for his selling the property. Chapter 21E is the Massachusetts Oil & Hazardous Materials Response Act. Because of the gasoline, the sale fell through, he said, and he has taken the property off the market.

Vincent J. Hebert, the city's superintendent of Parks and Recreation, asked whether Getty would be required to install wells at Wahconah Park. Wanat asked in turn if the present Wahconah Park well, which is used for irrigation of the field, could be used for a preliminary test. Hebert agreed that it could.

If gasoline has gone that far in quantity, Wanat said, a second recovery well may be warranted in that area. The present recovery system is on the Getty station property, and 400 cubic yards of contaminated soil are stored there as well.

One critical problem involved with the cleanup is time. Ed Stockman, conservation agent for the Pittsfield Conservation Commission, said that he is worried that if spring floods arrive before the gasoline is removed from the ground, it will be washed away by the rising water table into the neighboring wetlands and the Housatonic River.

Halloween parade meeting Tuesday

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation will hold its second organizational meeting for the 44th annual Halloween parade on Tuesday night. The parade is cosponsored by The Berkshire Eagle.

There is still plenty of time to enter floats, bands or marching units in the parade, the department said.

The meeting will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Springside House, 874 North St. Any group wanting to participate in the parade must have a representative present at the meeting.

Groups interested in further information but unable to attend this meeting, may call the Recreation Department office.

10-9-88

10.

Capital outlay panel is revived by mayor

2/12/88

PITTSFIELD — Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski has formally reactivated the Capital Outlay Committee, fulfilling a campaign vow for more long-term planning at City Hall.

The committee, which was active in the 1960s but was disbanded in the early 1970s, will coordinate short- and long-term capital expenditure needs for the city, the mayor said.

Its responsibilities are expected to focus on equipment purchases, maintenance scheduling and planning for other long-term city programs, including those in public works, public utilities and parks.

Long-term planning was a familiar campaign theme last fall when Wojtkowski was running for mayor.

The committee, which will hold its maiden meeting Feb. 22, will be chaired by Planning Board Chairman David E. Phelps.

The members will include Finance Director Daniel L. Bianchi, City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi and the other four members of the Planning Board — Carmen C. Massimiano, Alfred Bradley, James B. Tynan and Kevin Phair.

The membership makeup is spelled out by city ordinance. The committee will have only advisory powers and will report to the mayor.

The Capital Outlay Committee is one in a series of changes Wojtkowski is instituting at City Hall.

She has also activated the dormant School Building Needs Commission and wants to consolidate the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste committees into a single Public Utilities Advisory Committee.

Mayor will request $30,000 extra for removing snow

PITTSFIELD — In the wake of the season's biggest snowstorm, the City Council will deal tomorrow night with a request from Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski to appropriate an additional $30,000 for snow removal.

The last two heavy snowstorms sent the Public Works Department budget — which had been $24,427.25 — into the red. Costs for the last two storms are estimated to be $36,000, Commissioner David R. Spiewak estimated. The appropriation would pay the balance plus cover the city for two more snow removal stints of eight hours each.

The Council also will vote on the $2.1 million agreement by which the Berkshire Mall in Lanesboro would connect to a city water main along Route 8. Along that line, Councilman at large Peter G. Arlos has submitted a petition urging that the city not enter into any negotiations with Pyramid Companies until the developers have obtained all the permits necessary for the mall.

And Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi also filed a mall-oriented petition, asking that a representative of Shopco appear before the Council on March 9 to give a progress report on its proposed Pittsifeld mall.

Other issues on the agenda are several appointments, including Associate City Solicitor Richard X. Drennan and Park Commissioner Paula Virgilio.

2/22/88

Bicycle safety rodeo scheduled Saturday

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Kiwanis Club will conduct a bicycle safety rodeo Saturday from 9 to 11 in the parking lot of Sacred Heart School for 4th and 5th graders at Sacred Heart, Egremont and Williams schools.

Youngsters will be taught how to inspect their bicycles for safety and will participate in various drills, according to organizers.

The Rev. Raymond Lanoue, pastor of Sacred Heart Church and president of the local Kiwanis Club, has arranged use of the church parking lot.

Thomas Burgner and Robert Bardwell are co-chairmen of the event. If this year's event is successful, it may be expanded to include other schools next year, according to club members. The city Parks Department aided in organizing the event.

Flyers have been distributed in the schools, and parents have been asked to sign permission slips. Prizes will be awarded.

4/28/88

Hodgkins defends his lake bill

BOSTON — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, Friday defended his bill to compensate for federal cutbacks in the Clean Lakes program before the Legislature's Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

Passage of the bill — an amendment to the act creating the Clean Lakes Program — would save Monterey and New Marlboro $12,047 on the Lake Buel project, he told the committee.

Other communities that would benefit, he said, are Holden and Weymouth.

Under the Gramm-Rudman federal deficit reduction act, he said, the Environmental Protection Agency has cut federal support for the program by about 2 percent. His bill would allow the state to pay a larger percentage of project costs to keep the cost to communities constant.

Hodgkins told the committee that he filed the bill on the recommendation of the state Division of Water Pollution Control. The present statute holds the state contribution to no more than 30 percent of the cost of developing a lake-preservation plan and no more than 25 percent of the cost of carrying it out.

The amendment will not increase total state funds available for lake preservation, he said, "but by allowing this flexibility in establishing the cost-sharing percentage, local communities will be relieved of shouldering an additional burden for projects that are deemed necessary and beneficial for maintaining the quality of their lakes."

3/1/88

BCRPC awarded contract for Pontoosuc Lake plan

PITTSFIELD — After two tries, the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission has won a $9,700 contract to develop a watershed management plan for Pontoosuc Lake.

The BCRPC first bid for the job last May and was awarded the contract over two other contenders. However, the contract was later nullified by the state for alleged bidding violations.

The watershed management plan is one phase of the Clean Lakes Program, which is being administered jointly by the state and county. It addresses septic systems, catch basins, street sweeping and phosphate detergent use in the Pontoosuc area. It also calls for a public awareness campaign.

After three similar bids came in last May, the County Commissioners favored the planning commission's offer of $10,000. But the state, which is paying for three-quarters of the Clean Lakes Program, disapproved.

The Division of Water Pollution Control, in striking down the contract, noted that former BCRPC staffer Robert L. Spencer had been listed as the person to contact in the county's formal request for proposals. In addition, the BCRPC already was under contract with the county to prepare the request form and to evaluate the bids, among other Clean Lakes' services.

When an appeal of the state order failed, the commissioners rebid the watershed plan and instructed the planning agency to stay clear of further deliberations. The two bids that came back varied widely. The BCRPC made an offer of $9,700, while O'Brien & Gere Engineers of Pittsfield bid $86,749.

The commissioners again awarded the contract to the planning agency.

3/27/88

Halloween parade meeting scheduled

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation has announced plans for the first organizational meeting for the 44th annual Halloween parade, which is co-sponsored by The Berkshire Eagle.

The meeting will be held Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the Springside House, 874 North St. Any group wishing to participate in the parade must have a representative present at the meeting.

Local organizations are invited to enter floats, bands, or marching units in the parade. All entries must have a theme that is Halloween related.

9-15-88

Joel Librizzi

'Twitch' time

3/31/88

"Twitch" the Easter Bunny paid its annual visit to 14 Pittsfield schools and day care centers yesterday. Here Twitch, who is sponsored by the Department of Recreation, dispenses jelly beans and draws smiles at Morningside Community School.

Easter egg hunt is this Saturday

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation and the Pittsfield Exchange Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday at 3.

The event will be held behind Reid Middle School.

In the event of poor weather, the hunt will be Sunday, April 10, at 3 behind Reid.

The egg hunt is open to Pittsfield children, 9 years of age and younger, who will be divided into the following four age groups: 2 years and younger, 3-to-4-year-olds, 5-to-6-year-olds, and 7-to-9-year-olds.

Prizes will be awarded in each age group for children finding the largest and smallest eggs as well as the golden, silver and black eggs. Children are asked to bring their own basket or bag. 3/30/88

Park cleanup canceled for lack of volunteers

4/25/88

PITTSFIELD — The cleanup of Clapp Park, to be sponsored by the city's Recreation Department as part of Shape Up Pittsfield Day, has been canceled for lack of interest.

Susan Stella, supervisor of recreation, said too few groups were interested to warrant scheduling the event, originally set for May 7.

Conservation board clears way for pavilion in Burbank Park

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Preliminary work on the $380,000 pavilion at Burbank Park is expected to begin the week of May 16, following the unanimous approval yesterday by the Conservation Commission of aspects involving water and wetlands.

itself. The top of the stairs will be anchored to two posts sunk into the bank, Mellace said, and there will be some reconstruction of the beach, which is largely man-made. A ramp also will be installed for the handicapped. 5/3/88

The project was explained to the commission by Robert S. Mellace, of the city's planning department. Mellace, who is also a member of the Conservation Commission, abstained from the voting.

Mellace told the commission the work will have an impact on wetlands in four ways. He said all were minor, and the commission agreed.

The first involves an underwater concrete pad on which removable stairs will rest during the summer. The stairs allow people to ascend and descend the bank when getting in and out of boats.

The second impact is on the bank

The reconstruction of the beach also falls under the 100-year-flood consideration, Mellace said, as does the ramp for the handicapped.

Finally, the area where the pavilion is to be built falls into a buffer zone and will require extensive cutting and clearing. Commission Chairman James J. Riddle suggested some of the larger and more significant trees ought to be saved to landscape the area.

The pavilion, expected to be finished by the end of September, is 45 feet by 72 feet and 10 feet high at the roof peak. After initial bids for a textured masonry building came in at what Mellace said was double the budget, the details of the building were scaled down. The exterior will be plain concrete blocks, painted tan, with a brown asphalt roof. Portions of the walls will have cedar siding.

The interior will contain a kitchen and concession, a first aid station, an office for the beachmaster, restrooms and changing rooms. For security, the building will include rolldown aluminum doors and Lexan windows.

Architect for the project is the firm of C.T. Male of Latham, N.Y.

Two playground posts still need to be filled

4/23/88

PITTSFIELD — Applications have lagged for positions in the Recreation Department's summer program for special-needs youngsters.

Recreation supervisor Susan Stella said that the department is seeking to fill the posts of arts and crafts leader and group leader for the special-needs program. Because of the lack of applicants, the department has extended the deadline for applications to May 6, Stella said.

The positions pay $4.50 an hour and are usually filled by college students or high school seniors, she said.

Except for the special-needs program, enough applications have been received for all the positions for the city's playgrounds and beaches for the seven-week program, she said.

Summer playground activity extends from July 5 to Aug. 19, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cleanup effort to concentrate on Springside Park

PITTSFIELD — The focus of Saturday's volunteer cleanup of the city's parks has been narrowed to Springside Park, according to Jon Schoenwald, one of the organizers of the effort.

Schoenwald said the anticipated number of volunteers would be insufficient to remove the litter and refuse from more than one site. The initial plan called for volunteers to tidy up Burbank and Pontoosuc parks along with Springside.

The cleanup will be a fund-raiser on the model of a walkathon: volunteers gather pledges from individuals and businesses for the time they spend on the 9 to noon effort.

Those interested in working or sponsoring can call Schoenwald at Berkshire Community College. Schoenwald is a member of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, whose BCC chapter is organizing the cleanup. 4/14/88

Dept. of Recreation is seeking volunteers

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation is seeking volunteers to teach after-school activities such as arts and crafts or drawing at Morningside and West Side Community schools, according to recreation supervisor Claudia Williamson.

Information may be obtained by contacting the department at 874 North St.

9-12-88

MASS CONFUSION reigns as children and mothers dash to scoop up jelly bean-filled eggs.

Photos by Joel Librizzi

The great Easter egg scramble

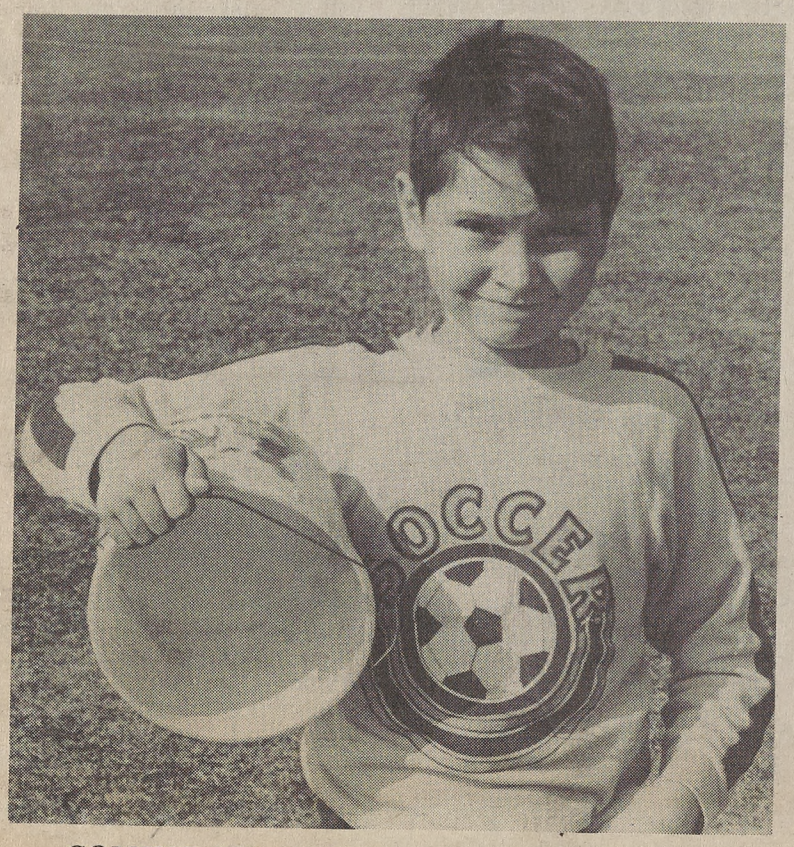
By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — It was pure Mob Scene. An estimated 2,300 children, from 9-year-olds down, rushed across the playing field behind Reid Middle School yesterday afternoon in a longstanding rite of spring, the Park Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

And according to Vincent J. Hebert, community services director who has presided over these events since shortly after the first one in 1948, there were more children this year than ever. A record, in short.

No secret

It was over almost before it began. Latecomers, some of them held up in lines of traffic that grew to half-mile length along North and First streets as the 3 p.m. starting time neared, were still struggling across the brook from the Springside Park parking lot with their children in tow as the last plastic egg was scooped from the turf.



COMING UP EMPTY yesterday was Peter White, who stopped to help a child who fell.

Hunt is a misnomer. There is no secret as to where the eggs are. They lie on the open ground like so many colored ornaments, placed there by Exchange Club volunteers beforehand.

Parents get into the act along with the children, although Hebert faithfully announces that it is a children's event. It has always been thus. An account of the 1953 hunt, held at Clapp Park, reported a "major problem that may be solved in other years by holding two separate events — one for children and one for their parents."

While most of the egg gatherers yesterday were children, there were enough parents among them to be noticed, and they weren't just in there holding the kids' hands. They were scooping up the eggs as well.

Some youngsters came away empty handed, among them Peter White, 9, who stopped to help a fallen hunter, effectively removing himself from the race and any chance for a prize.

"There was this boy down on the ground," said Peter, "and the other kids were just running over him, and he was crying. His knee was hurt. I stopped to help and called the guard over."

A passer-by said Peter had done the right thing.

10,000 eggs

Contributing, in Hebert's view, to the record turnout was a record number of plastic eggs. There were 10,000 of them, donated, according to egg hunt chairman Daniel Zavatter, by the Price Chopper market chain, which also provided 800 pounds of jelly beans to put inside them. The plastic eggs are hollow and come apart in the middle.

Scattered around the field were 20 wooden eggs painted different colors, five for each of the four age groups. These were the prize eggs. Those who found them received $2 gift certificates to The Candy People.

While no one liked to see children left out, there was no hope of delay.

"I'm sorry we couldn't hold them back," said Hebert. "But they just start. You can't be just a little bit late."

Generally, it was a boffo event. Most youngsters got an egg or two, and some got many more. The weather was warm. The sun came out shortly before the start, and stayed out.

"It takes so long to set up, and so short a time to have it," sighed Susan Stella afterward. She is the Park Department's recreation supervisor who does most of the organizing. One hundred volunteers from the Exchange Club, Price Chopper and the department spent three hours one night two weeks ago putting the jelly beans in the eggs, for example.

It required about an hour to place all the eggs around the field. And it was over, according to Hebert, in less than two minutes.

Prize winners in all the categories, beginning with the 2-and-under group, were: Nicole Codella, Bob Horne, Liann Scherban, Jessica Kruzel, Michael St. John, Chad Butler, Jeff Brien, Kelly Doheny, Jessie White, Shawna Lahey, Joey Pravia, Jennifer Lopes, Ryan Lahey, Erik Moser, Justin Cook, Shaun Kelly, Karen Smegal, Angela Elser, Walter Slonski and Chad Myers.

4/3/88

14.

Council wants to restore separate Parks & Recreation Department

PITTSFIELD — In its first budget session last night, the City Council voted to ask Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski to fold up the umbrella of the Community Services Department and break out the Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Department into separate bodies.

The proposal would reverse the findings of the 1983 Cresap, McCormick & Paget management study, which created the Community Services umbrella.

Community Services, headed by Vincent J. Hebert, oversees the Senior Center, Parks and Recreation, the Berkshire Artisans and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

The reasoning behind the plan, put forth by Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, was that the mayor has proposed giving the Senior Center its own director at a cost of $25,752 a year.

If the Senior Center has a director, Stracuzzi said, the Parks and Recreation Department should have its own superintendent and the position of community services director should be eliminated.

Berkshire Artisans and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program would report to the mayor. The directors of the Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Department would report to the Council on Aging and the Park Commission respectively.

Stracuzzi said he was "taken aback" when he did not see the budget arranged in this manner. Wojtkowski, he said, was taking "half an approach to an existing problem."

Better care

Hebert and Recreation Director John Marchesi supported the new arrangement, arguing that the city's parks would receive better care and maintenance if they were in a single administrative body.

The Council gave the Community Services budget preliminary approval contingent on the request to the mayor for the new arrangement.

The Council also reviewed budgets for the Berkshire Artisans, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program and the Maintenance Department, giving them preliminary approval and asking for no substantial changes or deletions.

The next budget session is Wednesday, when the Council is scheduled to review budgets for the Fire and Police departments. Wojtkowski's total proposed budget is $60.3 million.

5/5/88

Recreation jobs deadline extended

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation has extended the application deadline for all those interested in summer jobs.

Interested persons should obtain an application at the Department of Recreation at 874 North St. The deadline for filing is now June 15.

The jobs available are for work in the playgrounds and special needs programs.

6/2/88

Skateboard recreation area is proposed

PITTSFIELD — The city should build a recreation area for young skateboarders, in light of a proposal to ban the sport on downtown sidewalks, says Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton Sr.

"We keep saying the kids can't do this and they can't do that," said Stockton. "I think when we take something away, we also have to come up with alternatives."

Last month the City Council backed a proposal by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos to ban skateboarding on North and South streets between Wahconah and West Housatonic streets.

The city solicitor is presently drafting the ordinance, which still needs final approval.

Stockton said he is not against Arlos's idea, "but in the meantime, we have to let them ride their skateboards somewhere."

Other cities have built facilities designed for skateboarding, Stockton said, and the Parks and Recreation Department might be able to come up with a similar facility here.

Stockton also said he would like to see skateboarding concentrated in a safe area for young people. The councilor pointed to injuries suffered by skateboarders on the streets.

Zachary Holzman, 15, of 30 Robbins Ave. was hurt while riding a skateboard down Linden Street the afternoon of May 18. He was taken to the intensive care unit of Berkshire Medical Center.

6/2/88

Three Pittsfield boards to hold meeting for public on recreational use of open space

PITTSFIELD — The Parks Commission, Conservation Commission and Planning Board will hold a joint public meeting tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Springside House to elicit public comment on the recreational use of open space.

The comments are to be incorporated into the city's open space plan, to replace the plan that expired two years ago.

The plan is a required for the city to apply for state recreational open space grants, such as the urban self-help grant that is funding improvements about to begin at Burbank Park.

That grant amounted to $425,700, but the bids from contractors were so much higher than estimated that some work, including upgrading the road and parking lot, will have to be done in a second phase, according to Robert Mellace of the city's planning department. Phase 2 will also include building erosion and drainage control, Mellace said.

Priority list

Phase I includes building a pavilion and picnic area. Joseph Francese Inc. is expected to begin the work Monday, Mellace said.

"Now we want to finish the work to make a quality facility," he said.

The state Division of Conservation Services requires an approved open space plan for the city to qualify for self-help grants. Although the previous open space plan expired in 1986, the Burbank Park grant was approved while the previous plan was still in effect, according to Mellace.

The open space plan becomes part of city's overall master plan, he said.

The Park Commission has drawn up a priority list, ranking areas slated for improvements. Heading the list are Burbank Park and Pontoosuc Lake Park, because of high demand for lakefront recreation, according to Vincent J. Hebert, commissioner of community services. The commission will be seeking a grant for erosion control in Pontoosuc Lake Park, Hebert said.

Next in order of priority are Springside, Clapp and Kirvin Memorial parks and Park Square, he said.

Improvements listed

According to the commission's recommendations, long-neglected Springside would receive increased maintenance. Clapp Park, much used for high school and winter sports, would have toilet facilities installed and a running track upgraded.

Kirvin Memorial Park, formerly called Sackett Brook Park, whose scheduled development has been at a standstill for lack of funds, would have its athletic fields reconstructed and its roads repaired.

These and other items will be open for discussion at the public meeting Tuesday at Springside House, 874 North St.

Additional suggestions for inclusion in the master plan are being sought. The plan is intended to serve as a guide in long-range park and recreation development, as well as in developing specific projects.

5/16/88

15.

Mayor wins round on budget issues

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski had her way with the City Council last night, winning preliminary approval for a $22,500-a-year administrative aide and fending off decisions on two other key budget issues with which she has expressed discomfort.

The Council — diluted in strength by the absence of Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi and Ward 2 Councilor Sheila A. Polastri, who are both ill — voted 8-1 for the mayor's $105,500 office budget, including the mayoral aide. Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos dissented.

To argue her case for the aide, Wojtkowski appeared in person for the first time at a budget hearing. She presented the Council with a list of mayors' staffs in other Massachusetts communities, most of which included at least one executive assistant.

Other cities cited

Holyoke, Taunton. Revere, Arlington and Peabody, for example — all cities or towns with smaller populations than Pittsfield — have executive assistants to the mayor at annual salaries ranging from $22,500 to $27,672. Cities with larger populations have one or two assistants, one to three secretaries, one to two part-time secretaries and constituent services aides.

Arlos, who calls the mayor's proposed aide a "valet" and a "coat-holder," said Wojtkowski's request was "out of touch with reality" because of recent layoffs in the private sector and looming cuts in state aid.

Arlos further argued that the position of assistant to the mayor for administration and finance was designed to be an executive assistant to the mayor. Many communities who have executive assistants don't have assistants to the mayor for administration and finance, he said.

Stockton, McCaffrey support

Staunch supporters of the aide included Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton, who called on the Council to unify behind the mayor and give her the help she wants, and Councilor at large James R. McCaffrey, who normally votes against additions to the payroll but who is one of Wojtkowski's greatest allies on the Council.

Councilor at large Imelda C. LaMountain, who chaired last night's session because of Stracuzzi's absence, said after the meeting that the Council was concerned about additions to the payroll and noted that last night's action was only preliminary.

The Council rejected Wojtkowski's request for an aide three months ago, when she wanted to pay the aide $25,000 a year. As the budget season developed, it appeared the mayor might not get approval again, and the aide was seen at least as a bargaining chip. Now, however, Wojtkowski is well on the way to having help in her office.

Wojtkowski also made headway with the Council on another front. She appealed to the Council not to take action on two key issues that have developed this budget sea-

Mayor wins
Continued on Page B2

6/2/88

Mayor wins

Continued from Page B1

son: the appointment of a parks director and the shifting of emergency dispatchers from the Police to the Fire Department.

Since the mayor proposed giving the senior center its own director — a campaign promise — the Council voted to give the parks department its own director and get rid of the position of community services director, which serves as an administrative umbrella for both.

Wojtkowski, whose meeting with Stracuzzi and Parks Commission Chairman Clifford J. Nilan last week produced no agreement, said she wants the Council to hold off on the move while she makes an overall, one-year study of the structure of Pittsfield's government.

The mayor also asked the Council to hold off on the emergency dispatchers, while she completes a six-month study on where best to locate them. The study will include surveys of other cities and a review of the technical questions surrounding the routing of 911 emergency calls.

Short meeting

Although the Council was slated to make final votes on those two issues, as well as on several other department budgets, the panel adjourned after Wojtkowski's presentation and took no other votes. The meeting, which normally runs from 7:30 to 10 p.m., ended at 8.

Another budget session has been scheduled for next Wednesday. The school budget will be reviewed the next night, and final action on the entire $60.3 million spending package is tentatively scheduled for June 14.

6/2/88

Park eyed as new site for clinic

By Holly A. Taylor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Supporters of the Neighborhood Health Center have approached the city about using vacant land at Wahconah Park as a new, expanded home for the health clinic for the poor.

Advisory Board member Charles Bunnell said last night that the options include building a new center off Wahconah Street, moving an existing house to the site, or refurbishing another building on Berkshire Medical Center property and allowing the hospital to use the parkland for much-needed parking.

Berkshire Medical Center, which operates the Neighborhood Health Center, has reversed its position on the fate of the clinic. Three months ago hospital officials wanted to move it from its brick home on North Street to space inside BMC. This would save money and free up the North Street site for parking and, eventually, a $10 million office building for Berkshire Physicians & Surgeons, a private practice of doctors.

That plan was met with loud opposition from advisory board members who feared that inside a large institution the health center would lose its identity and mission.

"What we're talking about is very exciting and the result could be an expanded Neighborhood Health Center," said BMC executive vice president Keith T. Pryor last night. "What has occurred is that all the parties opened their minds to the different options."

Bunnell and advisory board member Willard Durant met with the Parks Commission last week and the commission established a three-member subcommittee to look into the proposal.

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski said the Neighborhood Health Center "sounds like a good use" if the parkland is not being used for anything else. However, she said the city would have to determine if any restrictions apply to the land's use.

Some question whether allowing parkland to be used by a private institution

Santa phone calls to kids slated Monday, Tuesday

PITTSFIELD — Volunteer Santas will again make personal telephone calls to Pittsfield children as part of the Department of Parks and Recreation's seventh annual "North Pole Calling" program on Monday and Tuesday, from 4:30 to 8.

Information sheets have been sent home from city schools with children in Kindergarten through Grade 2. Forms are available at the Department of Parks and Recreation at 874 North St. and should be returned by Monday noon.

Parents will be asked to list the child's name, age, school, gifts requested, gifts he or she will receive, brothers, sisters, pets' names and suggestions for possible remarks.

Berkshire Savings Bank has once again offered the use of its telephones; volunteers from the Berkshire Chapter 65 Vietnam Veterans of America, RSVP, City Hall and the Department of Parks and Recreation will make the calls. Last Christmas season, more than 550 children received a telephone call.

12-7-88

10 Years Ago

Twenty-five persons from around the world met in Superior Court of Berkshire County to become citizens of the United States of America. They varied in age from 5 to 65, in occupation from engineer to housewife and in nationality from Canadian to Korean.

Roger B. Sloper, veteran member of the Pittsfield Parks Commission, was elected to serve as chairman of the commission for the 1978-79 season. He succeeded Clifford J. Nilan who had served in the post for the past year.

Mrs. William Freehoffer, William A. Cook, Robert Gasca, Wendell R. Cook and Angela Savery, all of Middlefield, were awarded cash prizes for their gardens entered in the family garden contest sponsored by the Middlefield Grange. Todd Gazda was presented with a hoe in recognition of his work as a junior gardener.

10-4-88

Health clinic

Continued from Page B1

such as BMC would set a precedent, and whether there is enough buildable land at Wahconah Park, which contains wetlands and is bisected by the Housatonic River.

Bunnell said the options include moving a white clapboard house at 35 Charles St., owned by BMC, to the site. However, Pryor said that appears unlikely because it would cost $200,000 to move and renovate the building.

Another possibility is recruiting a corps of volunteers to build a new home for the health center as a community project, perhaps enlisting building students from Taconic High School, Bunnell said. Volunteers and tradesmen donated their time in 1976 to renovate the center's existing home.

With new construction, Pryor said the center could accommodate other services now housed inside BMC, freeing up more space in the medical center. For example, an obstetrician-gynecological clinic, operated in BMC four afternoons a week with a sliding scale of fees, could move to the health center.

Continued use of the house on North Street is not a possibility because the hospital wants that land "for parking and ultimately, the office building," Pryor said. Although an August deadline was set for moving the Neighborhood Health Center, Pryor said the center would remain on North Street until its fate is decided.

6/27/88

Parks Dept. priorities

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The Aug. 31 Eagle says that the Parks Department takes up to six men from various park jobs to bring them to Wahconah Park to perform tasks for the Pittsfield Cubs and then brings them back to their jobs.

The Senior Citizens that man the information booth at Park Square on a voluntary basis have to put up with unsightly conditions that detract from the beautifully cared-for courthouse lawn.

I suggest that the senior volunteers adopt the policy of the Pittsfield Cubs and give season passes to the park commissioners in the hope that the Parks Department will give the same consideration to the information booth as they do to the Pittsfield Cubs.

GUISEPPE GRECO
North Adams

9-7-88

Battle of budget ended by 7-1 vote of City Council

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The battle of the 1989 municipal budget ended quietly last night as the City Council voted 7-1 to approve the $60.3 million spending package with a key compromise on education spending included.

The Council approved the budget after Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski agreed to commit up to $575,000 in future surplus funds to education, if sufficient funds are available.

Wojtkowski, who had previously opposed any firm commitment for surplus funding for the schools, made the commitment after the Council cut out pay raises for her City Hall appointees and stripped the benefit package from her proposed mayor's aide.

'Natural process'

The Council restored both those items last night. But Wojtkowski said after the action that there was no trade-off.

"I think what we had was a natural process with two bodies trying to come to an agreement," the mayor said. "We're very happy with the middle ground we've been able to come to."

The Council rejected the municipal budget — Wojtkowski's first since taking office — June 14, and a series of bitter blows between the mayor and members of the Council ensued. During the battle Wojtkowski questioned Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi's ethics and Stracuzzi all but called the new mayor a dictator.

The key points of disagreement concerned education spending, the elimination of the community services director and creation of a parks superintendent, and the supervision of the city's emergency dispatchers. The mayor ended up giving up ground on all three issues.

While Wojtkowski said the compromises that brought about approval of the budget were positive steps, she said she found "bartering" on such subjects as the emergency dispatchers "inappropriate," because of the public safety issues involved.

'Certain style'

On the Council side, Councilor at large Imelda C. LaMountain and Ward 1 Councilor Caroline M. Bresnahan expressed reservations respectively on restoring pay raises to Wojtkowski's appointees and benefits to her aide.

In addition, some councilors said that while they were glad to see the city would have a budget for the new fiscal year, which starts Friday, they were skeptical about the future of Council-mayor relations during the Wojtkowski regime.

"I think what you've seen here is a certain style," said one councilor, referring to Wojtkowski.

For the moment, the city will start the 1989 fiscal year with a new budget in place. It includes several new programs and the addition of 11 personnel for City Hall and some 40 new personnel for the School Department.

Arlos alone

The lone dissenting vote in the entire process last night was that of Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, who objected to the addition of city employees on the payroll and to the School Department's budget as a whole.

"They always say, 'Oh, the children, oh, the children.' Well, I'm sick of that act," Arlos said, referring to school officials. "They've sold a bill of goods to the citizens of this city. We've got to stop this hoax."

Arlos said the school budget has skyrocketed and personnel additions have gone up while school enrollment has gone down and the drop-out rate has gone up. He blasted Superintendent Robert L. LaFrankie for not coming forth with "results of how that money is being spent," such as test scores.

"You know why he hasn't come forward with that report, as the City Council requested? Because he'll be embarrassed," Arlos said. "Money isn't the answer."

Agreed with mayor

Arlos conceded after the meeting that he was actually in agreement with Wojtkowski, an old foe, about trimming the school budget. "But she didn't have the guts, she didn't have the skills to really block it," he said.

Ward 4 Councilor Bernard J. Goclowski and Ward 5 Councilor John P. Anderson Jr., both of whom supported Wojtkowski's budget anyway, were not present last night. Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia L. Betters, who voted to reject the budget, was at an affordable-housing conference. 6/29/88

Alan Cooperman
Claudia Williamson

Claudia Williamson named supervisor of parks recreation

PITTSFIELD — Claudia Williamson of Concord, N.H., has been named recreation supervisor for the city's parks and playgrounds. Williamson begins her new position Monday.

She was previously a counselor in a group home for disturbed adolescents in Concord.

She has also worked at the Manice Education Center in North Adams.

Born in Bangor, Maine, she graduated from Woodsville (N.H.) High School, where she played field hockey and basketball. She graduated from Lyndon State College in Vermont with a major in outdoor education and recreation in 1984.

5/11/88

10 Years

Pittsfield Police Chief John J. Killeen, 65, spent his last full day on the job, after 14 years at the head of the Police Department. He was guest of honor at a party at the Pittsfield District Court attended by the entire court staff, along with several lawyers and others.

Mount Hope Farm in Williamstown changed hands from Williams College to August E. and Pamela E. Mansker, a Missouri couple who planned to use the acreage for grazing and breeding animals, and the large Elm Tree House to call home and corporate headquarters for their health spa business.

The new Christmas tree in Pittsfield's Park Square was lighted for the first time when 10-year-old Eddie Colbert, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Colbert of 67 Chickering St., Pittsfield, pulled the switch.

12-1-88

BMC faces opposition on center

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Park Commission will re-convene this evening at 7:30 at the Springside House to vote on whether to allow Berkshire Medical Center to use a section of Wahconah Park parking lot for employee parking.

Commission members agreed to adjourn last night so that they could think over the ramifications of BMC's proposal. All the members who expressed themselves said in effect that to allow private parking on public park land would set a dangerous precedent.

Noting that because of conflicting schedules it would be at least two weeks before the complete commission could meet again, Chairman Clifford J. Nilan called a one-day adjournment. The move precludes having to re-advertise the public meeting, Nilan explained.

The issue is complex. The Neighborhood Health Center, which serves low-income individuals and families, is now located in a building owned by BMC that will be torn down to make way for the $10 million Berkshire Physicians and Surgeons office building. Current plans call for a new center to be built on a parking lot also owned by BMC on the southwest corner of the junction of Wahconah and North streets. Parking that would be displaced would be replaced by the Wahconah Park land, if the Park Commission votes to allow its use.

The center will probably be built by Taconic High School students as next year's construction project but Charles Bunnell, a member of the center's advisory board, said that Taconic teachers must decide by July 19, next Tuesday.

Nilan said he was "offended" by the proposal and suggested that BMC should

BMC 7-15-88

Continued on Page B3

City prepares 1/12th budget just in case

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The city, preparing for the worst, has readied for a 1/12th budget in case negotiations between the mayor and the City Council on the 1989 budget are not successful.

The 1/12th budget, so named because the city must base all expenditures month-by-month according to 1988 budget levels, is ready to go if needed, said Finance Director Daniel L. Bianchi.

"We're ready to go both ways," Bianchi said. He was hopeful a resolution on the new budget would be reached, he said, "but at this stage it's too late to assume that all will go well."

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski and members of the Council's Finance Committee are scheduled to meet Monday at 5 p.m. to hammer out a compromise on the $60.3 million spending package, which the Council rejected June 14.

The Council meets the following day for a regular bimonthly meeting. But if no agreement is reached on either of those days, time will run out: the fiscal year ends Thursday.

School funding main issue

The central issue in the budget impasse is school funding. The school budget is up 6.5 percent, but Wojtkowski slashed $1.1 million from requested increases, and school supporters are crying foul.

Accordingly, the Council wants Wojtkowski to commit a percentage of the anticipated budget surplus to the schools according to a formula. But the mayor does not want to be tied down to specific numbers.

The Council and the mayor reached a compromise on the two other issues that led to the Council's rejection of the entire budget — the appointment of a parks director and the location of the city's emergency dispatchers.

Wojtkowski agreed to appoint a parks director, which she previously opposed, and went along with short-term funding for the dispatchers in their present location, the Police Department, with an eye toward moving them in 90 days.

But on addition school funding, the two sides remained in a deadlock. At a special session Tuesday, the Council offered a $750,000 cap on their proposed formula for the surplus, but Wojtkowski balked.

As a counter-offer she said she would be willing to apply the Council's formula only to those surplus funds in excess $5.9 million — a figure far beyond current estimates for the city's extra cash. This time Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi balked, calling the mayor's proposal "unrealistic."

There the disagreement stands for Monday's meeting. The key issue will be whether Wojtkowski gives in to the idea of a surplus-spending formula, which a majority of the Council wants, or stands firm on a more general commitment to examine school funding needs when the surplus becomes known in August.

One School Committee member suggested that the formula might be made palatable if the cap were lowered from $750,000 to $500,000 or less.

In the meantime, city departments are already lined up to go without a new budget come July 1, Bianchi said. All new initiatives and all pay raises are put on hold while the city operates on the 1988 figures, he said.

The city does have some flexibility under a 1/12th budget, however. Bianchi said he had checked with the state Department of Revenue and learned that funds for the Parks Department, for example, can be expended outside the constraints of the month-by-month procedure.

If the Parks Department were funded strictly on a month-to-month basis at this point in the summer — when parks activity is at a peak — the parks "would have to be shut down," Bianchi said. 6-25-88

City Council capers

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Sometimes I can't believe my eyes when reading some of the headlines about the Pittsfield City council. The latest act of stupidity is the failure to renew a contract for baseball in Pittsfield [Eagle, Dec. 8]. The Council, in all its infinite wisdom, is trying to tell a man how to run his business when the city itself is falling down around them. The Council can't get its own house in order because the members have their nose in other peoples' business all the time (namely, Peter Arlos). They are so involved with "the details" that they pay other people to take care of, that they have lost sight of the big picture, the reasons people elect them. Trying to run a baseball team by telling the owner how to do it isn't one of them.

RAYMOND BOUTIN
Lanesboro 12-13-88

18.

Neighborhood Health Center backers still seek construction by Taconic

By Holly A. Taylor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — It may take another year, but Neighborhood Health Center supporters want a new home for the low-income clinic designated as the 1989-90 project for the Taconic High School house building program.

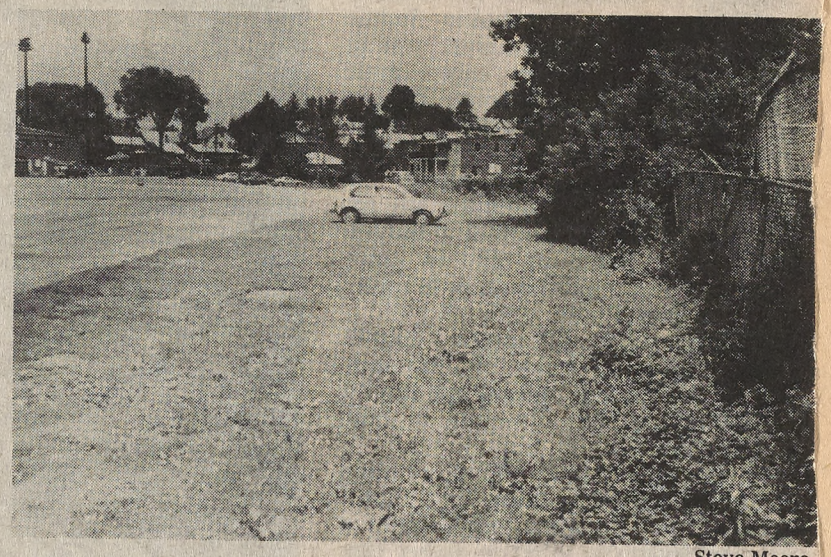
They had hoped that it could be built this fall by students, but the proposal could not be finalized in time and another project was selected. In an attempt to salvage the concept, representatives from Berkshire Medical Center, the clinic's advisory board, the Parks Commission and Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski met yesterday in City Hall.

Wojtkowski said the request will go before the School Committee at its Aug. 24 meeting and the parties will attempt to iron out some issues by that time.

Charles Bunnell, chairman of the advisory board, said yesterday that BMC and the advisory board view the project as a joint venture, but he is worried that the project could collapse with the controversy.

"We went through this whole series of trying negotiations with BMC on what we thought was a waonderful project. I want to be positive, I really want to see this building built," Bunnell said.

A free-standing clinic, the mayor said, is "incredibly important," and the rest of the negotiations simply involve finding "a common ground." Wojtkowski said she did not have enough information to take a stand on the Wahconah Park issue.



Steve Moore

SECTION of Wahconah Park parking lot where the small white car is parked is where BMC wants to park cars displaced by proposed Neighborhood Health Center building.

BMC, which runs the clinic, wants to move it from a brick house on upper North Street to make room for more parking and eventually the proposed $10 million office building for Berkshire Physicians & Surgeons. The advisory board has lobbied for a free-standing home, instead of an office in the hospital, saying the clinic has offer an alternative for persons who can not afford or are intimidated by private medical care.

The center's advisory board and the hospital want Taconic students to build a new clinic at the corner North and Wahconah streets, formerly Nesbit's garage. That land is used for BMC employee parking, which BMC and the advisory board want shifted to the parking lot of Wahconah Park.

The Parks Commission voted 3-2 for the plan, but was working on stipulations allowing the city to revoke at any time BMC's right to park at Wahconah Park. Commssioners and advisory board members also wanted assurances that the Neighborhood Health Center would not be bumped again by BMC to another site. 7-21-88

Halloween events are announced

PITTSFIELD — Halloween activities Oct. 27-31, sponsored by four city organizations, were announced yesterday in the Pittsfield Central newsletter.

The annual Halloween parade, from Park Square to Wahconah Park, will be at Monday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m.

That event will be preceded by a mystery ape making appearances downtown between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. with a $10 prize awarded for guessing the ape's identity; a children's party at the Berkshire Athenaeum children's room at 3:30 p.m., and a performance by the Fabulous Hi-Fi's downtown between 10, noon and 2. Halloween refreshments will be served.

On Sunday, Oct. 30, the city's official trick-or-treat time is sched- 5 and 7 p.m.

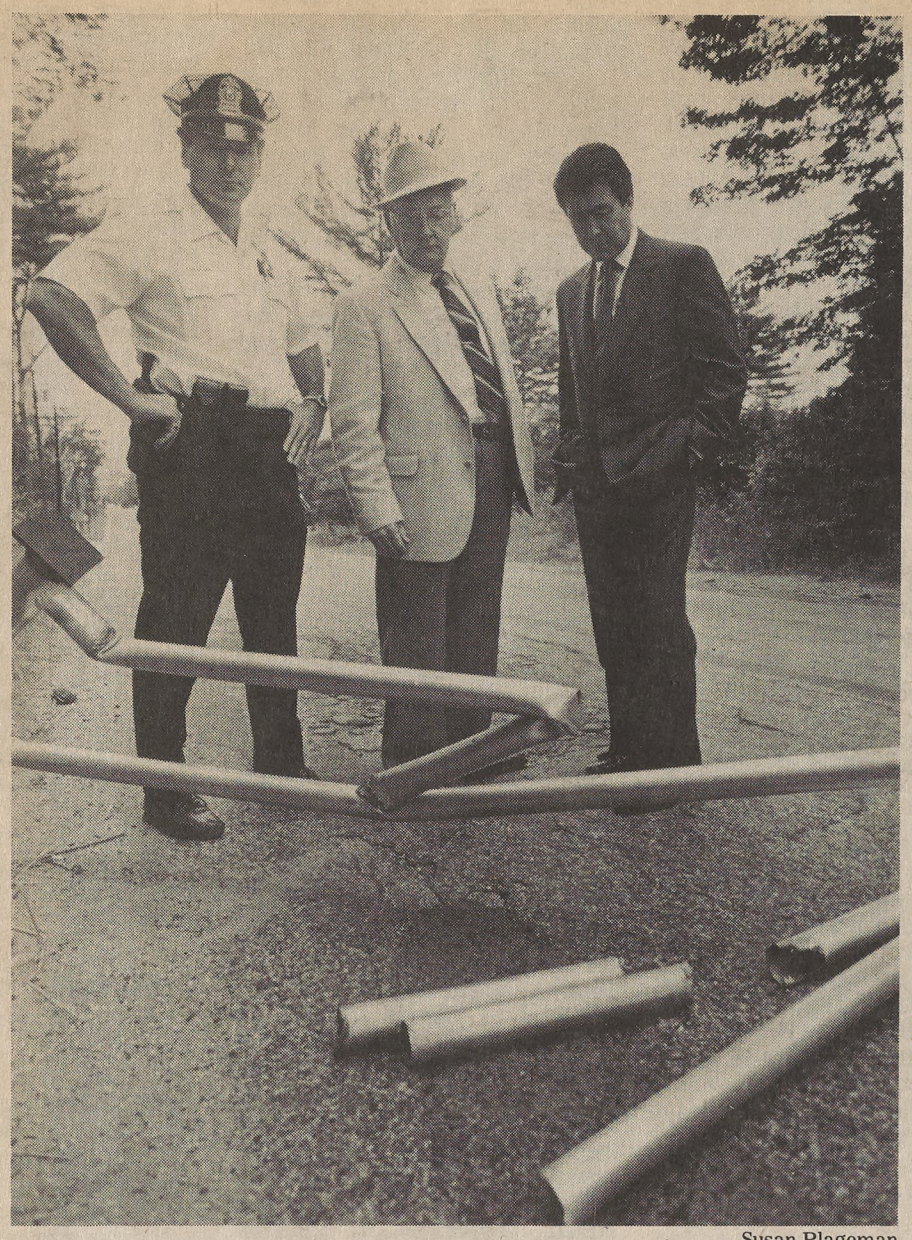
Haunted-theater performances will take place at the Berkshire Public Theatre between 4 and 9 weekdays and 1 to 9 Saturday and Sunday between Oct. 27 and 31. Admission will be charged.

On Saturday, Oct. 29, the Berkshire Museum plans an open house with a nature hour at 10:30 a.m., guided behind-the-scenes tours at

uled between 5:30 and 7.

Some of the downtown businesses will offer specials or discount coupons to the Berkshire Public Theatre performances.

Sponsoring organizations are the city's Recreation Department, Pittsfield Central, the downtown organization, and the Berkshire Athenaeum and the Berkshire Museum. 10-11-88



Susan Plageman

SURVEYING DAMAGE done Wednesday night to the gate to Burbank Park are Capt. Walter Boyer; Vincent Hebert, community services director, and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Clifford J. Nilan.

Gate of Burbank Park falls victim to vandals

PITTSFIELD — Vandals have been repeatedly breaking the lock on the gate entrance to Burbank Park at Onota Lake, and on Wednesday night someone destroyed the entire gate, police said.

Capt. Walter Boyer said the Pittsfield Police Department will question the owners of six or seven cars that were parked inside the gate when police locked it up between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Wednesday night. Each night when the gate is locked, police take down the license plate numbers of any cars still parked inside.

He said police discovered the destroyed gate after returning to the park sometime after 9 p.m. Wednesday to let out someone who had called to complain about being locked in.

The park is closed during the night in order to prevent the vandalism and disturbances that formerly occurred there.

Some early-bird fishermen have complained that police are not unlocking the gate at 5 a.m. each morning, as is posted on the sign at the gate.

In response to their complaints City Councilor Peter G. Arlos has filed a petition asking the city's Parks and Recreation Department to unlock the gate on time each morning.

"These sportsmen are not the ones responsible for the abuse of the lake, and it is unfair that these people, who have paid up to $12.50 for a fishing license, are the ones to suffer for the negligence of others," said Arlos. "Since the Parks Department has issued the order to have the gates locked, it is their responsibility to see that they are opened at the posted hour."

Police say the gates are unlocked each morning by officers on the midnight shift, and that the officers attempt to open the gates as close to 5 a.m. as possible.

The gates are locked to keep automobile traffic out during the night.

7-1-88

Park board overturns Health Center agreement

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Park Commission last night voted unanimously to rescind approval for employee parking by Berkshire Medical Center in the Wahconah Park lot.

It had approved the parking arrangement, which would have paved the way for construction of a new Neighborhood Health Center, in July. The action left the center's future in doubt.

The vote was recommended by City Solicitor Michael J. McCarthy, who ruled in a letter dated Aug. 24 that such use of a city park by BMC, although "inspired by noble intentions . . . violates longstanding laws of the Commonwealth which are based on important public policy."

On the surface, the question simply was whether BMC could use parking spaces in the Wahconah parking lot for its employees.

Substitute

But the precipitating issue, and the cause for passionate debate, was the future of the Neighborhood Health Center. BMC wanted the parking spaces to make up for those that would be lost under a plan to relocate the health center on hospital land now used for parking. The current health center, in a brick house on North Street, is to be torn down to clear the way for a proposed doctor's office building.

After a long debate over the proper use of park land, the commission had narrowly approved the arrangement.

In rendering his opinion, McCarthy noted that at least five former city solicitors have been asked to answer similar questions, though on different issues. He cited a number of opinions, including one in 1951 by then-city solicitor and now retired state Supreme Judicial Court Justice Francis Quirico.

Quirico said that, under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 45, park land "cannot lawfully be diverted to uses and purposes other than park uses and purposes without authorization from the Legislature of the Commonwealth."

The case has been bolstered by a 1972 amendment, Article 97, McCarthy wrote. It requires a two-thirds vote of both House and Senate to change the use of lands set aside for parks.

Charles Bunnell, chairman of the advisory board of the Neighborhood Health Center, said last night that he had been aware of McCarthy's opinion and had met yesterday with Keith T. Pryor, executive vice president of BMC, to discuss alternatives.

"We are still talking about what may be done," Bunnell said, "including some things that do not involve the use of park land."

He declined to say what those options might be, because they are still merely ideas.

"We want to get this thing built," he said.

The health center now is in a building at North and Charles streets that BMC owns and will raze to make way eventually for a proposed $10 million Berkshire Physicians and Surgeons office building.

The health center serves low-income individuals and families who might resist being treated at BMC itself. The center was an outgrowth of a grass-roots movement for family health care, and its proponents want to protect its independent character.

9-8-88

Last meeting slated for Halloween parade

PITTSFIELD — The last planning meeting for the city's 44th annual Halloween parade will be held Thursday at Springside House, 874 North St. Judges will meet at 7 and those involved with bands, marching units and floats will meet at 7:30.

Groups planning to participate in the parade should have a representative at the meeting for final instructions, according to the Department of Recreation.

The parade will be Monday, Oct. 31, at 7.

The Berkshire Association of Treasure Hunters will hold a candy inspection at Springside House on trick-or-treat night, Sunday, Oct. 30. The trick-or-treat hours are from 5:30 to 7, and children may bring in their collections between 6:30 and 8:30 to be inspected with metal detectors. The inspection is free.

10-25-88

Street is named for Vin Hebert

PITTSFIELD — The boulevard between Onota Street and Valentine Road became Vin Hebert Boulevard by act of the City Council last night.

The naming was in honor of Vincent John Hebert, for 38 years the superintendent of parks and recreation.

In a surprise ceremony, Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, who said Hebert had hired her as a parks employee in 1951, presented him with the street sign bearing his name and a plaque to the accolade of the council.

Wojtkowski cited Hebert for his "larger than life contribution" to the life of the city, and the crowd stood to applaud him.

In accepting the honor, Hebert said it was the first time he had ever been before the City Council and couldn't think of anything to say.

10-26-88

20.

Council trying to force mayor to shift emergency dispatchers to Fire Dept.

5/12/88

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The City Council made its first major change in Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski's $60.3 million budget last night by deleting the city's emergency dispatchers from the Police Department budget and recommending they go under the Fire Department's wing.

The Council — which can only make deletions from the budget, not additions — voted 8-1 to strike $125,255 earmarked for the four dispatchers from the Police Department budget and to urge the mayor to put the money back in the Fire Department budget.

The majority of the Council and the Public Safety Committee want the dispatchers under Fire Department control because Fire Chief Gerald F. Keehnle claims they are not calling out the firefighters on many emergency incidents. Rather, Keehnle said, the dispatchers put police out on calls, such as car accidents, and officers decide at the scene whether fire equipment is needed.

New plan

Councilor at large James R. McCaffrey, who voted against tinkering with the mayor's budget, asked that Wojtkowski, Police Chief William M. Dermody and Civil Defense Director Thomas Grizey come before the Council with a new plan they have developed to keep the dispatchers under police control but improve operations.

Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi said neither Wojtkowski nor Finance Director Daniel L. Bianchi approached him or other councilors to discuss any new plan, so the Council had "no choice" but to stick to its original position of putting the dispatchers under the Fire Department.

While this was the first time the Council exercised its right to delete line items, it was not the first time the panel disagreed with the mayor. Last week the Council differed with Wojtkowski on the organization of the Community Services Department and recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department have its own director.

The rest of the $4 million Police Department budget sailed through unchanged, although the Council, Dermody and Bianchi wrangled over how to best manage the 62 budgeted patrol positions in terms of putting more police on the streets.

The police budget contains no money for additional officers. Dermody had requested 10 new officers but Wojtkowski turned him down. Of the 62 budgeted positions, there are four vacancies, four officers in police academy, three on long-term disability, one in an education program and one unfilled for administrative reasons — all of which means there are actually 49 working patrol officers at the moment.

Stracuzzi said since there was no money to budget new positions, Dermody should focus on filling the vacancies in the budgeted roster. But Dermody said between Civil Service hiring rules, the 13-week academy and the contributory retirement system he simply could not keep up.

Dermody said he thought the Council was "nit-picking" and asked for the budget as is, noting at one point that the mayor said she might be able to fund at least some of the additional officers at a later date.

The $4.2 million Fire Department budget was given preliminary approval with no changes, despite the Council's concern that $102,000 for the refurbishment of two fire trucks was not in the package. Keehnle said the mayor had told him she might be able to fund that item at a later date.

In an interview after the meeting, Stracuzzi said there was a lack of communication between the mayor and the Council on the police and fire budgets, perhaps leading the Council to go through some unnecessary hand-wringing.

"Apparently there are some promises being made," he said in reference to the comments by Dermody and Keehnle about being funded at a later date, "but we certainly don't know about them."

Stracuzzi said communication was also a factor in the emergency dispatchers issue.

"Communication with the administration has always been necessary before budget sessions," Stracuzzi said. "I [also] requested that the mayor come to these sessions. Unfortunately, neither has happened."

Arlos says Cubs owe city for work on field

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — City Councilor Peter G. Arlos says the city is supplying workmen on occasion to help the Pittsfield Cubs baseball club. He contends that the practice should stop or that the Cubs should reimburse the city.

He has filed a petition with the council to have the mayor instruct the city Parks Department to stop supplying the free labor.

The work in question is rolling back the tarpaulin that covers the infield at Wahconah Park, the city-owned ballpark where the Cubs play home games.

The Cubs' general manager, E.J. Narcisse, and the city's recreation director, John C. Marchesi, said the free labor Arlos speaks of has been supplied on five occasions during the season, starting last spring.

"It takes about 20 minutes," said Narcisse.

"It's a community service," said Marchesi. "It only happens after there's been a downpour. You need five to seven men to roll it [the tarpaulin] back."

Arlos maintained that the work has sometimes been done at overtime rates, but Marchesi said this was not so.

In his petition, Arlos said he would have "no objection to city personnel being used if the ballclub pays for the job." But city funds "should not be used to benefit a private money-making business in this manner."

Marchesi defends practice

In Marchesi's view, the tarpaulin work is offset by favors the Cubs organization does for city youth who play in the summer baseball leagues.

"We've gone out of our way to build good relations with the city," said Narcisse.

According to Arlos, it takes an hour and a half to remove the tarpaulin, more than four times as long as Marchesi and Narcisse say it takes. "To add insult to injury," he contended, "the taxpayers paid for the tarpaulin [while] the Cubs pay only $1 to use the park."

In fact, Marchesi said, the city and the Pittsfield Cubs split the $3,000 cost of the tarpaulin. He added that the tarpaulin will remain in the park after the baseball season and will be used to cover the football field, which runs through the baseball outfield.

The contract between the city and the ballclub, Marchesi said, requires that the club pay for the park's utility costs and for cleaning the stands, the washrooms, locker rooms and grounds. Both the Cubs and the city have a full-time groundskeeper at the park to take care of the ball field, he said.

Whatever the outcome, the Cubs will not have many more games at Wahconah Park this year. This season's playoffs begin today, and the team could play no more than five more games at Wahconah before the spikes are hung up for the year.

8/31/88

Boys' Club to have Halloween party, walk

PITTSFIELD — The Boys' Club will hold its annual co-ed Halloween Party and "ghost walk," co-sponsored by the Pittsfield Parks Department, Oct.27 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Ages are 6 to 12 and children must wear costumes.

There will be costume-judging, games and refreshments.

Tickets are 75 cents and are on sale at the Boys' Club lobby. They may also be obtained at the door.

10-21-88

Halloween events, dates, times listed

PITTSFIELD — Trick-or-treat night will be Sunday, Oct. 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

City officials suggest that parents accompany their children and that trick-or-treat visits be confined to familiar neighborhoods. They also suggest that children be encouraged not to eat any goodies until the food has been inspected later at home.

The annual Halloween Parade will be Monday, Oct. 31, starting from East Street at 7 p.m. and ending at Wahconah Park. There will be 13 floats, two vans, six bands and eight marching units. Information about entering the parade is available from the Department of Recreation.

10-20-88

Joel Librizzi

Leaf team

10-27-88

Removing the ecological fallout of autumn in Park Square are, from left, Pittsfield parks workers Donald Griffin, Ronald Smith, Erico Carnevale and Brad Delano. On the truck in the background is Patrick Van Bramer.

Leslie Noyes

The lights go on

Aglitter with 16,000 multicolored lights, a 25-foot spruce shines in Park Square during Pittsfield's annual tree-lighting. More than 500 people joined in a sing-along with the Pittsfield High School band and choir. The event also included simultaneous lighting of decorations in surrounding buildings and a visit from Santa. 12-2-88

'Horrible' happenings coming on city's Halloween weekend

PITTSFIELD — The idea for a Halloween weekend in Pittsfield that expands on activities of previous years grew from a telephone call, Andree Tremoulet, executive director of Pittsfield Central, said yesterday.

"Iris Bessell from Berkshire Public Theatre called to say the theater wanted to sponsor a haunted house," she said. "We thought it was a great idea, so we called other downtown organizations to see what they had planned."

The result, she said, will be a weekend that will include the haunted theater event, a spooky band, an open house and a children's costume party, as well as the traditional trick-or-treat night and Halloween parade.

Most of those events were listed in an Eagle story yesterday. However, the times of some events were inadvertently scrambled in the composition process.

By way of correction and amplification, Tremoulet said the public theater, at 30 Union St., will begin the weekend with its haunted theater at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27. The program will extend through Halloween, Monday, Oct. 31, with Thursday, Friday and Monday hours from 4 to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday hours from 1 to 9.

Horrible sights

Jo Martella, marketing coordinator for the theater, warned that visitors come at their own risk because "the whole theater, from the basement to the balcony, will be full of horrible sights and sounds, including a phantom actor who will lurk in the wings."

Admission to the event is $1.50 for children and $2.50 for adults. Many downtown businesses will have 50-cents-off coupons available.

On Saturday, Oct. 29, the Berkshire Museum will sponsor an open house that will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the museum, with tours that will begin at 10, noon and 2. A nature hour will begin at 10:30.

Tracy Wilson, driector of development, said that Halloween "is a great time to check out our Egyptian mummy or visit some of our snakes and crawly critters in the aquarium and natural science department." Admission is free, and Halloween treats will be served.

Sunday, Oct. 30, will be Pittsfield's official trick-or-treat time from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

On Halloween, a large ape will visit North Street periodically between 9 and 5. Anyone correctly guessing the ape's identity will win $10, Tremoulet said.

Also on Oct. 31, the Children's Department of the Berkshire Athenaeum will sponsor a Halloween party at 3:30.

Costumes invited

Valerie Toner, children's librarian, said young people are invited to come dressed as their favorite storybook character. The program includes such games as bobbing for apples. Children are also invited to join the Halloween parade by marching with the Bookmobile.

From 5 to 7 p.m. on Halloween, the HiFi's, a costumed musical group, will entertain people on North Street as they get ready for the parade.

The parade will begin at 7 at Park Square and end at Wahconah Park, said Claudia Williamson, recreation supervisor. Costumes and spooky floats will be featured.

Tremoulet said she hoped the kind of activities the weekend represents will be repeated on other festive occasions.

"Downtown is home to some fine organizations that add a lot to the life of the city," she said. "We hope that this collaborative effort is just the beginning."

Halloween parade is tomorrow at 7 p.m.

10/30/88

PITTSFIELD — Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano will be the grand marshal of the city's annual Halloween parade, which will begin tomorrow at 7 and proceed from Park Square along North Street to Wahconah Park.

Prizes of $100, $75 and $50 in two categories will be awarded for the best floats. The same amounts will be awarded the top three bands. Judges at the parade assembly area will select 25 children in costume to receive gift certificates.

If it rains or snows, changes in plans for the parade will be announced over local radio stations by 5:30 p.m.

Trick-or-treat night is tonight from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The parade line of march is as follows:

Section I: Corner First Street and East Street to Bartlett Avenue

1. Pittsfield Police Dept. Cruiser
2. Pittsfield Recreation Car
3. Halloween Parade Grand Marshal
4. Berkshire County House of Correction Float
5. V.F.W. Post 448 Color Guard
6. Pittsfield Fire Department Vehicle and Sparky
7. City Hall Dignitaries
8. Pittsfield High School Color Guards
9. Pittsfield High School Band
10. Brass Action Senior Drum and Bugle Corp Float
11. Brass Action Senior Drum and Bugle Corp Marching Unit

Section II: Bartlett Avenue to Pomeroy Avenue

12. Berkshire Royal Knights Drum Corps
13. Egremont School Float
14. Egremont School Marching Unit
15. Berkshire Athenaeum Book Mobile
16. Berkshire Athenaeum Marching Unit
17. Lanesboro School Float
18. Lanesboro School Marching Unit
19. Saint Joseph's High School Cheerleaders
20. Child Care of the Berkshire Float
21. Child Care of the Berkshires Marching Unit

Section III: Pomeroy to Pittsfield High School Driveway

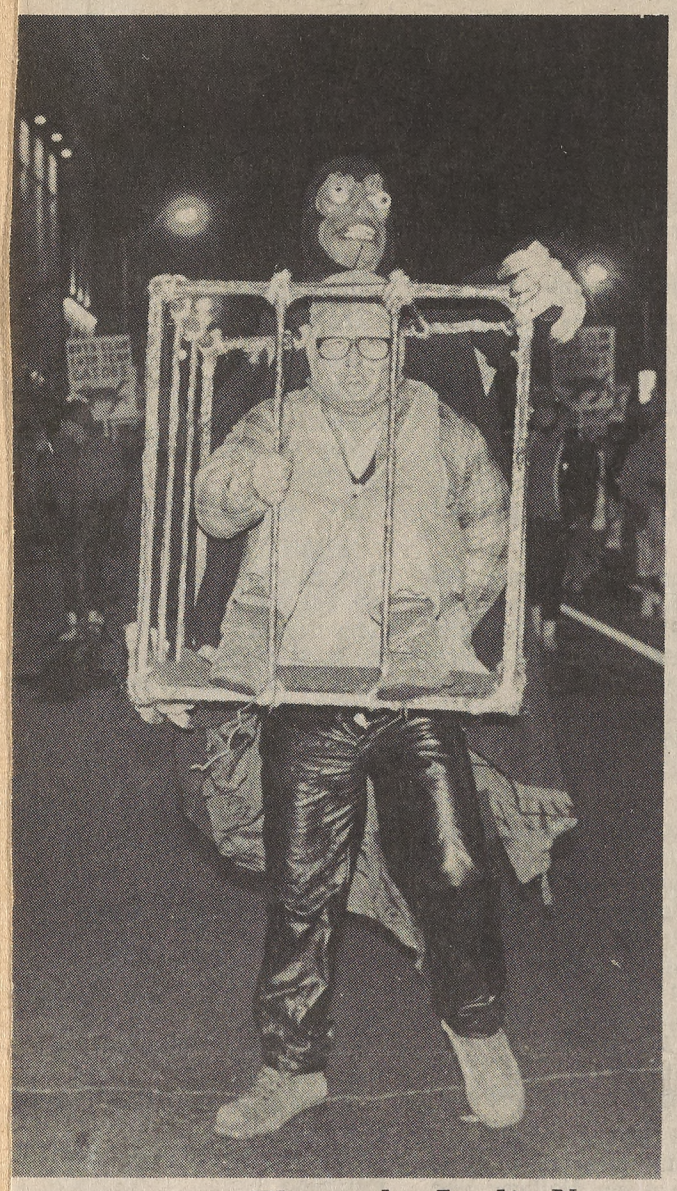
22. W.B.E.C. News Van
23. Lee High School Band
24. Allendale School Float
25. Allendale School Marching Unit
26. Taconic High School Cheerleaders
27. Stearns Float
28. Stearns School Marching Unit
29. Boys' Club Swim Team Marching Unit
30. Petricca Industries Float

Section IV: Pittsfield High School Driveway to Appleton Avenue

31. Wahconah High School Band
32. Cub Scouts Den 2 Pack 75 Float
33. Bradlees Marching Unit
34. Morningside Community School Float
35. Morningside Community School Marching Unit
36. West Side Community School Float
37. New Lebanon High School Band
38. I.U.E. General Electric Float

Ghost walk

Ghouls, skeletons take to street



Photos by Leslie Noyes

At the parade, clockwise from Amanda Depson, 2, of Pittsfield with her rabbit ears, are: the West Side Community School dragon; Petricca Industries' first-place float entitled Skeleton Crew, and a marcher in a cage.

By Alison Gendar
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A dragon howled, banshees wailed and skeletons walked the earth last night when the 44th annual Pittsfield Halloween parade prowled through North Street.

The 35-degree weather meant small ghosts wore parkas under their costumes, but despite the cold, Park and Recreation workers estimated between 10,000 and 12,000 people watched the five bands and 11 floats roll by.

"Eeee, look at the dragon," one 5-year-old shouted as he watched West Side Community School's entry, "Yellek's Draggin," clear one of North Street's numerous streetlights.

Parents and teachers at West Side created the monster — Principal Frank W. Kelley's name backward — by wrapping a Friendly Tree Service cherry picker in green garbage bags.

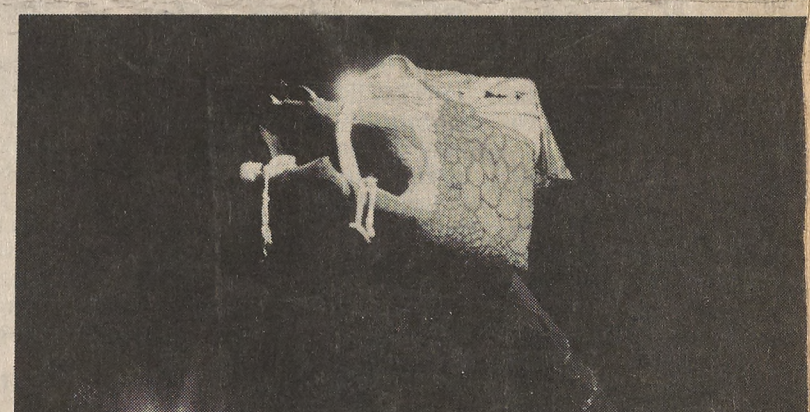
But with a cardboard head, red flashing eyes and a smoking mouth, the cherry picker became a roaring terror complete with a bloody plastic skeleton clenched between its jaws. The dragon reached its full height of 55 feet at least once during the parade.

Another crowd pleaser was Petricca Industries' "Skeleton Crew" entry. Employees' children dressed in reflective skeleton suits and yellow hard hats, all with the letter "P" on them. This crew then danced and waved to the song "Working for a Living" while building the "Eerie Canal Bridge."

Petricca's float came in first in the adult-constructed division and won the $100 prize. West Side Community School came in second for a $75 prize, and Child Care of the Berkshires third for a $50 prize with the float, "The Old Woman in the Haunted Shoe . . . No they're not all hers." All floats were judged on theme, originality, costume and effort.

11/1/88

Ghouls walk the night
Continued on Page B3



Leslie Noyes

TRUMPETER Tanya Wilson of Great Barrington plays with St. Mary's Blue Knights of Lee. 11/1/88

Ghouls walk the night

Continued from Page B1

In the child-built float division, Lanesboro Elementary took first place with its "The Haunted Sghoul." The 48-foot flatbed was decked out with cobwebs and bandaged children trying to learn from the ghoulish schoolmaster, who carried his head on a platter. During daylight hours the schoolmaster is actually Michael Peot, manager of the Berkshire Mall.

"I've had this costume for years," Peot said while getting last-minute instructions on where to stand. "It seems to follow me to every mall."

Morningside Community School's float took second place in the child-built division, and the float's progress could be marked by the ear-piercing screams coming from its creators.

Morningside children, dressed as M&M candies, Reese's Pieces, Mr. Goodbars and Oh Henrys ducked and hid from a giant papier-mache hand that kept reaching out, trying to grab them.

Allendale School took third.

Among the five bands, Lee High School came in first, judged by music, marching, appearance and effort. Wahconah Regional High School came in second and Pittsfield High School third.

As the last float, "Halloween Tricks," entered by the IUE union and GE, passed the judging stand at about 7:30, it brought a burst of sympathy from one young onlooker. As a pointy-nosed witch stirred a caldron of "child stew," a young girl on the parade route pointed at the little girl in the pot.

"That's the girl I feel sorry for," she said.

Tree lighting set for Thursday 11-29-88

PITTSFIELD — City officials, the Pittsfield High School band and choir and the Girl Scouts will be on hand for the annual tree-lighting ceremony in Park Square Thursday at 7 p.m.

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, and Park Commission member Roger Sloper are expected to speak.

The event is sponsored by the city's Department of Parks and Recreation.

The tree, a 25-foot Colorado blue spruce, was donated by Eugene Curletti of Kittredge Road.

Thomas Grizey and a crew from Civil Defense decorated the trees in Park Square. A group from the Knights of Columbus under the direction of Paul DiVirgilio erected the creche and Santa Claus.

Nativity scene

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The woodland clearing on a mountain near the small Italian village of Greccio was made bright as day with torchlight. The villagers cried out in surprise and awe as they beheld the Christmas Eve gift of St. Francis of Assisi. Near a rock cave was a real manger, filled with straw. On one side of the manger stood a large ox and on the other side, a gray ass. Their warm breaths turned frosty white in the cold night air.

Since that deeply stirring night near Greccio, the Christmas creche has become a part of the world's Christmas celebration. And whether as a living dramatization, a large Nativity scene, or carved miniatures, it brings happiness to the hearts of adults and children alike.

Hats off to the local Knights of Columbus who have made it possible for us all to once more enjoy the Christmas scene at Park Square.

MARY T. BOLAND

Housatonic 12/11/88

Park Square gets its tree; downtown readies for season

PITTSFIELD — Thanks to an effort that included a host of volunteers, the downtown is decked out for Christmas today with a tree at Park Square and decorative lights and ornamentation on the square and along North Street.

The decorating began yesterday as a combined effort of the city's Public Works and Park departments and the Flynn tree service put up a 40-foot Colorado blue spruce tree at Park Square.

The Christmas tree was donated by Eugene Curletti of 94 Kittredge Road. The decoration effort is under the direction of Thomas G. Grizey, civil defense director.

As darkness fell, a crew of volunteers, including city employees and a group from Warner Cable Communications, began hanging decorations on the light standards, including five large angels at Park Square, red and green flags and 30 40-inch wreaths, each one with 100 small lights.

The overall theme for the downtown holiday effort this year is "Holiday Magic," Andree Tremoulet, executive director of Pittsfield Central, the downtown organization, said yesterday.

On Monday, she said, North Street stores will begin to "wrap" their windows with brown or colored paper and then "unwrap" them on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, to reveal Christmas windows.

Pittsfield Central is sponsoring a window contest, she said, with North Street shoppers invited to vote for their favorite window. Ballots will appear in local newspapers Dec. 1.

Pittsfield Central will also produce a holiday calendar of December events, she said, that will be available at downtown businesses in the first part of the month.

Beginning Dec. 1, stores will close at 9 p.m. Special Sunday hours will be from noon to 5 from Nov. 27 to Dec. 18. 11-19-88

Springside Park abuse

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Regarding the transformers found in Springside Park [Eagle, May 20], I think it is a pathetic situation when the park is used as a dumping ground for transformers filled with a hazardous chemical.

The history of Springside Park is one of neglect and abuse and it doesn't seem to be getting any better. The city has been dumping road waste in the park for years.

This raises a serious question about the supervision and management of the park. There seems to be a lack of leadership and direction. Who authorized placing the transformers in a city park? This is clearly an inappropriate way to dispose of a lethal chemical. Even if the oil is contained inside the transformers, it still poses a threat to humans and the environment.

CALEB MITCHELL

Windsor 6/22/88

Kindergartners to carol at City Hall

PITTSFIELD — Youngsters in the kindergarten classes from Egremont, Allendale, Williams and Morningside Community schools will sing Christmas carols on the steps of City Hall today at 12:10.

The caroling was organized by the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, and will be led by students from the Pittsfield High School chorus. 12-20-88

Dictator at City Hall?

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

It is very disturbing that a person with the educational background of the mayor should choose such shabby methods to force her will on a majority of the City Council.

The mayor has chosen to criticize my employment background and wrongly involve a family member in a budget issue in order to cloud my valid disagreements with some of her ideas [Eagle, June 16].

The issue of the Parks Department is nothing more than a reclassification of the community service director position (current incumbent Vin Hebert) to that of parks and recreation superintendent. This is not an addition to the city's payroll.

The mayor continues to regard valid political disagreements as not worthy of discussion. The mayor adamantly refuses to publicly discuss and negotiate issues with the City Council.

I was under the impression that we are still living under a democracy, not a dictatorship.

ANGELO C. STRACUZZI
President
City Council

40 Grant St.
Pittsfield 6/19/88

Potted pot

Photos by Joel Librizzi

POT PLANTS were found in Springside Park during search for PCBs.

PCBs and pot found in park

By Ellen G. Lahr
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Officials investigating a tipped over transformer in Springside Park yesterday found more than they bargained for — both PCBs and pot.

Deputy Fire Chief Ronald R. Mazzeo said between 5 and 18 gallons of PCB-laden transformer oil spilled onto the ground behind a storage shed near Springside House in the park on Wednesday.

A laboratory analysis done by General Electric Co. determined the oil contained a high concentration of PCBs, an ingredient used commonly in transformers until PCBs were identified as a suspected carcinogen.

However, the oil did not enter a nearby stream, and there is no evidence to suggest anyone came in contact with the oil, said Mazzeo.

PCBs, pot
Continued on Page B3

OLD TRANSFORMER stored in park was tipped, apparently by vandals, spilling PCB-laden oil.

5/20/88

PCBs, pot

Continued from Page B1

During the Fire Department's inspection of the property yesterday, firefighters discovered 16 marijuana plants in nearby bushes. The department informed the police, and the plants were taken to the police station. Yesterday police had no leads on who had planted the marijuana.

The Fire Department responded to Springside House after receiving a call from Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, who said she had been notified of the oil spill by a city resident.

The state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering has been notified. Clean Harbors, an Albany company qualified to clean up chemical spills, will begin work this morning at 8 and will remove all eight transformers from behind the storage shed.

Vincent J. Hebert, director of Community Services for the city, said the transformers were removed from Wahconah Park in 1977 when a new lighting system was installed there. He said there had not been problems with the transformers until the top was removed from one and it was tipped over — an occurrence he said could have taken place within the last two weeks.

Asked why transformers containing PCBs would be left outdoors, he said the equipment is normally outdoor equipment. He added that he was under the impression that those eight had been tested for PCBs.

5/20/88

Not Everybody Digs Motorcycles

For some, the motorcycle ride in last week's carnival on the Pittsfield Common was a wild thrill. For others, it was equivalent to having a tooth drilled.

6/11/88

CITY OF PITTSFIELD
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE

Re.: Burbank Park Recreation Facility. General and sub-BID P88-035.

The place of bid opening has been changed from the Purchasing Office to Room 203 in City Hall for both the sub-bids and the General Bid.

ROBERT B. TONE, C.P.M.
Purchasing Agent

3/14/88

Park Square test ban vigil

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Plan to show support for a nuclear weapons test ban March 14, between 4 and 5 p.m. when area religious organizations and peace groups are sponsoring a vigil at Park Square. This legal action will be in solidarity with the 5,000 to 10,000 Americans risking arrest this week as they gather at the Nevada nuclear weapons test site.

The Department of Defense discloses that each new weapons system requires about 15 tests. The United States and U.S.S.R. have a combined arsenal of over 50,000 nuclear weapons or 6,000 times the explosive power of World War II.

Polls show that there is overwhelming popular support for a comprehensive test ban. Massachusetts has gone on record in support of a CTB. In June of 1987 our state Legislature passed the CTB resolutions introduced by Sen. John Olver.

Vigils and demonstrations calling for a CTB will be held all across our country the week of March 14. Please join the Berkshire County vigil even if only for a few minutes. Together we can make a difference!

PAMELA GILCHRIST
Williamstown

The writer is a member of Berkshire SANE/Freeze

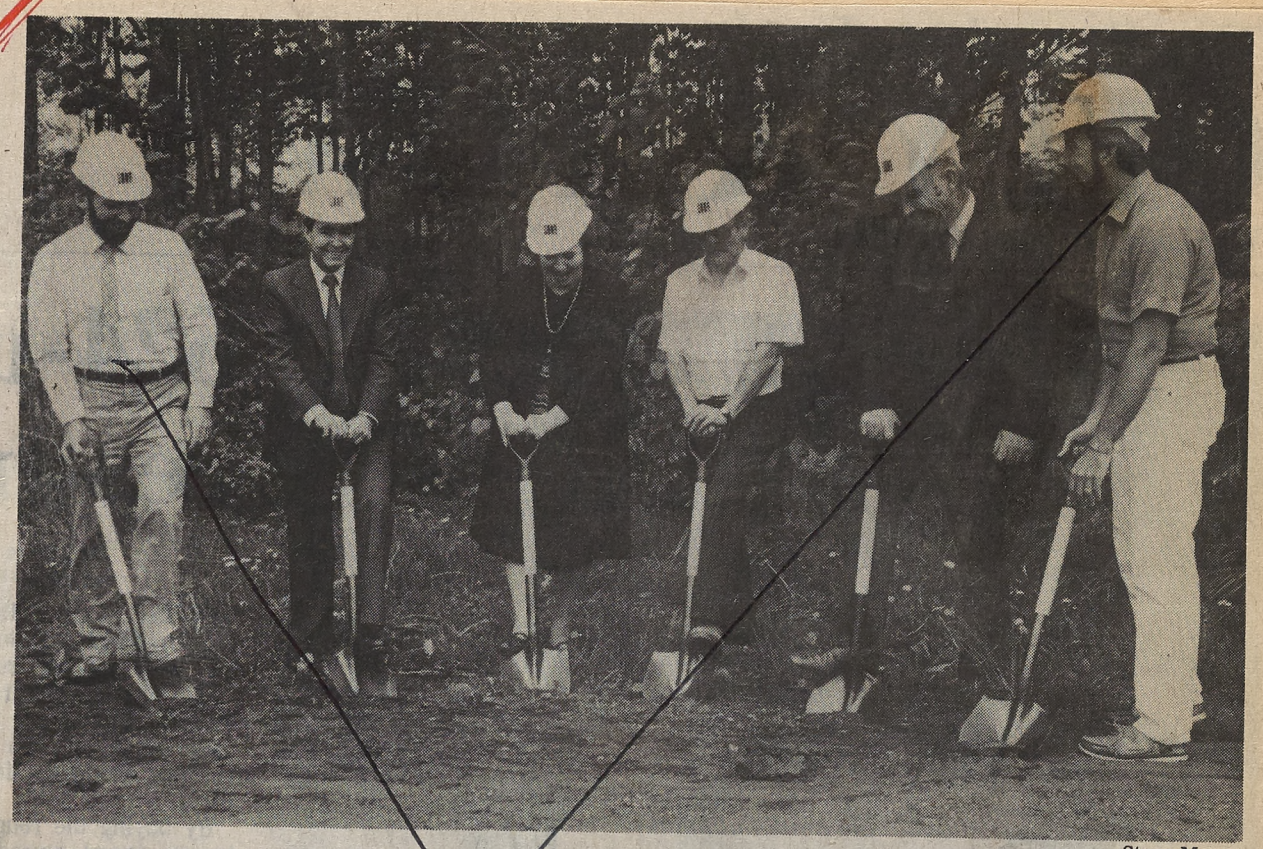
3/14/88

Leslie Noyes

'Santa speaking'

On the other end of this phone a Pittsfield child doubtless is having a thrilling talk with Santa Claus, played here by Tyrone Belanger. It was part of the seventh annual 'North Pole Calling' program of the Parks and Recreation Department, whose volunteer Santa impersonators concluded a two-day stand last night.

12/14/87



Steve Moore

GROUNDBREAKING for construction of a bathhouse at Burbank Park yesterday was carried out by, from left, Parks Commission Chairman Clifford J. Nilan; Mayor Anne E. Wojtkowski; Planner Robert Mellace; Conservation Commission Chairman James Riddle; Carl Curtin of the state Division of Conservation Services, and Dale Conklin, architect of C.T. Male Associates, Latham, N.Y., and Greenfield.

Burbank Park bathhouse project symbolically begun by diggers

Linda Burchard

PITTSFIELD — As the chilly wind pulled at damp umbrellas, city and state officials, along with architect's representatives, turned shovelfuls of earth yesterday to mark the start of construction on a bathhouse pavilion at Burbank Park overlooking Onota Lake.

The start of construction, said Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, initiates a new phase of commitment to cooperation between the city and the state to develop Burbank Park as a lakeside recreation area. The city received a $425,700 state grant for the project.

Wojtkowski said the start of construction represents, "the first phase of a long-term project" to develop the lakeside park, which she called "one of the most attractive areas in the state."

Another phase

A subsequent phase, requiring another state grant, is proposed to also improve the road and the parking lot, and expand recreational facilities.

Clifford J. Nilan, chairman of the Parks Commission, said the project has "taken a lot of work by a lot of people."

Conservation Commission Chairman James Riddle said he is pleased by the start of construction, which he expects will increase use of the area.

Robert Mellace of the city's planning department, project planner, said that the physical improvements of the area are only part of the plan. Also needed, said Mellace, are increased maintenance and security personnel "so it will be a safe place for families to have a good time."

Also wielding shovels were Carl Curtin of the state's Division of Conservation Services, and Dale Conklin, architect, of C.T. Male Associates, Latham, N.Y., and Greenfield, architects for the project.

Public meeting

The first phase of the project includes construction of the beach house, picnic area, playground area, new beach, handicapped ramp, signs and landscaping. Construction is being done by Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield.

The Parks Commission and Conservation Commissi... public...

37

Mark Mitchell

EXAMINING the lay of the land, developer James P. Creran, second from right, points out the particulars of his Talley Ho Country Park to, from left, Lawrence Allessio, who owns some of the land, and Planning Board members Rita H. Scales, David E. Phelps and Alfred Bradley. Far right is Francis X. Spina, Creran's attorney.

Neighbors object in vain to 29-lot Creran project

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Planning Board voted its unanimous — but conditional — approval last night to a 29-lot subdivision at the end of Maple Grove Drive, despite strong neighborhood opposition.

The 50 or so neighbors who attended the 4 1/2-hour meeting, vowed to continue their fight against the Talley Ho Country Park and developer James P. Creran. Figuring prominently in that dispute will be a soil analysis by a University of Massachusetts laboratory that found 2,252 parts per million of lead in soil from the site. Three hundred parts per million, according to the report, was considered to be dangerous to small children.

Residents of Birch Grove and Maple Grove drives said they were concerned about increased traffic, overcrowding in the schools — Talley Ho would fall at the junction of the Egremont, Williams and Allendale districts — and flooding. Downstream neighbors from the oft-flooded Lakewood section concentrated on the flooding issue. The opponents also came armed with a petition with 143 signatures.

The proposal, which already has been approved by the Conservation Commission, has been scaled down from 40 houses originally proposed last summer. Since then, Creran has decreased the density to 29 units, added a 150-foot-by-60-foot retention basin to control any runoff, and moved all construction out of the 100-year floodplain.

Creran led the Planning Board through the site at a special meeting yesterday at 5:30, pointing out the site of the road, retention basin and wetlands. During the trek, board members had to dodge dis-

5/24/88

Neighbors
Continued on Page B2

CITY OF PITTSFIELD
PARK COMMISSION
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Park Commission, Conservation Commission and Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 1988 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springside House on North Street. The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit input from the public regarding recreation and conservation needs. This information will be incorporated in the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, currently being updated.

CLIFFORD NYLAN
Parks Commission Chairman
JAMES RIDDLE
Conservation Commission Chairman
DAVID PHELPS
Planning Board Chairman

5/10/88

Steve Moore

GROUNDBREAKING for construction of a bathhouse at Burbank Park yesterday was carried out by, from left, Parks Commission Chairman Clifford J. Nilan; Mayor Anne E. Wojtkowski; Planner Robert Mellace; Conservation Commission Chairman James Riddle; Carl Curtin of the state Division of Conservation Services, and Dale Conklin, architect of C.T. Male Associates, Latham, N.Y., and Greenfield.

Burbank Park bathhouse project symbolically begun by diggers

Linda Burchard

PITTSFIELD — As the chilly wind pulled at damp umbrellas, city and state officials, along with architect's representatives, turned shovelfuls of earth yesterday to mark the start of construction on a bathhouse pavilion at Burbank Park overlooking Onota Lake.

The start of construction, said Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, initiates a new phase of commitment to cooperation between the city and the state to develop Burbank Park as a lakeside recreation area. The city received a $425,700 state grant for the project.

Wojtkowski said the start of construction represents, "the first phase of a long-term project" to develop the lakeside park, which she called "one of the most attractive areas in the state."

Another phase

A subsequent phase, requiring another state grant, is proposed to also improve the road and the parking lot, and expand recreational facilities.

Clifford J. Nilan, chairman of the Parks Commission, said the project has "taken a lot of work by a lot of people."

Conservation Commission Chairman James Riddle said he is pleased by the start of construction, which he expects will increase use of the area.

Robert Mellace of the city's planning department, project planner, said that the physical improvements of the area are only part of the plan. Also needed, said Mellace, are increased maintenance and security personnel "so it will be a safe place for families to have a good time."

Also wielding shovels were Carl Curtin of the state's Division of Conservation Services, and Dale Conklin, architect, of C.T. Male Associates, Latham, N.Y., and Greenfield, architects for the project.

Public meeting

The first phase of the project includes construction of the beach house, picnic area, playground area, new beach, handicapped ramp, signs and landscaping. Construction is being done by Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield.

The Parks Commission and Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting June 6 at 7 p.m. at Springside House to seek public comment on proposed additional improvements to Burbank Park. In

5.25.1988

3.

Creche to be removed from park in '89

By Linda Burchard
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The creche now in Park Square, if all goes according to plan, will be on the lawn of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for the holiday season next year.

In a joint press release issued yesterday, Joseph Manley, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and the Rev. J. Michael Povey, rector of St. Stephen's, said that agreement was reached Thursday and will be presented to the full membership of the Knights of Columbus, which is in charge of the creche, for approval.

Agreement was reached at a meeting at St. Stephen's that drew representatives from the Knights of Columbus, city Roman Catholic clergy and pastors of downtown Protestant churches.

Creche on public property

The meeting was prompted by religious and community concerns arising from the placement of the creche on Park Square, which is public property. Park Square, at the heart of the city's institutional and commercial center, belongs to the city and is under the jurisdiction of its Department

Creche to be moved
Continued on Page B9

Joel Librizzi

PARK SQUARE creche scene will be moved from public property to lawn of St. Stephen's Church.

12-3-88

The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, December 3, 1988 — B9

Creche to be moved

Continued from Page B1

of Parks and Recreation.

St. Stephen's is one of two churches on East Street that overlook Park Square. The other is First Church of Christ, Congregational.

"The meeting was very productive," said Povey. "I'm happy this will happen."

"St. Stephen's is a place of worship, which is a good place for a creche to be," he said.

The Rev. Richard L. Floyd, pastor of First Church, said, "A creche carries a great deal of religious meaning for us. It is precisely that powerful religious significance, regardless of any legal considerations, that makes it fitting for a creche to be on a church lawn as a symbol of a particular faith, rather than on a public square, which belongs to the whole community.

Creche — seasonal or religious?

The placement of a creche on public property has been a controversial issue in several communities. In March, 1984, the Supreme Court ruled in a case involving Pawtucket, R.I., that a creche on public property does not violate First Amendment rights of separation of church and state because it can be seen as part of a constellation displaying various seasonal symbols. For instance, on Park Square there are two types of symbols, the creche and Santa Claus in a sleigh pulled by a reindeer.

A creche, according to the court's reasoning, is not a governmental advocacy of a particular religious message.

There are those, however, who feel that purely on the grounds of sensitivity, a creche on public property seems to favor one religion over others.

Mayor Anne E. Wojtkowski said over the telephone yesterday that she is pleased by the agreement.

Wojtkowski praised the Knights of Columbus for their work in restoring the deteriorated creche figures. Because of their deteriorated condition, the figures had not been on display for the previous two holiday seasons.

Said Wojtkowski, "This was not a governmental issue. The city must remain in a neutral position.

"This had to be resolved in the religious community, and they have done that with great sensitivty and generosity on all sides."

Creche location

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Nice to know that the Christmas creche will be in a churchyard next year where it belongs.

Now, if they can just get Santa landing on the roof with a sleigh full of frankincense and myrrh, they'll have it all properly up-to-date, won't they?

N.F. HINE
Maplewood Avenue
Pittsfield

12-16-88

Park board to reconsider approval of BMC parking

7-19-88

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Park Commission will reconsider its 3-2 vote allowing Berkshire Medical Center to use Wahconah Park property for employee parking because a new building to house the Neighborhood Health Clinic was rejected as the 1988-89 project for the Taconic High School construction classes as of July 5, an aspect that was never mentioned at two Parks Commission meetings last week.

Raymond Cook, director of vocational and technical education for the Pittsfield Schools, said that he specifically told Keith T. Pryor, executive vice president of BMC, that Taconic students would be working on another project, as yet unspecified.

Taconic's involvement key

"There was no doubt that Keith Pryor was supposed to put things straight at the Parks Commission meeting," said Cook. "We had already agreed that Taconic would not be involved because I had to have a sponsor all lined up for a project for the school year." Pryor said Cook's claim was, "news to me."

He said he knew Taconic would have to consider other projects because the advisory board and BMC could not commit themselves without the Park Commission's cooperation.

"It has been my understanding that Dr. Cook was going to look at other possibilities," Pryor said, "but it had not been my understanding that Taconic had stopped looking at the clinic or had decided against the clinic."

The issue of Taconic High School's participation was an integral part of two emotional sessions last Thursday and Friday between the Pittsfield Park Commission, members of the advisory board of the clinic and Pryor.

The clinic will be evicted from its brick home on upper North Street to make way for parking and eventually the $10 million Berkshire Physicians & Surgeons Building.

A tentative plan called for Taconic students to construct a new building on a parking lot owned by BMC at the corner of North and Wahconah streets and BMC's displaced cars would be allowed to use a portion of the parking lot at Wahconah Park.

Park Commission members were split on whether BMC should be seeking public land for its cars in the first place. Support for the health center itself, which serves low-income persons in the city, has never been in doubt.

Cook was reacting to stories on the meetings in The Eagle last Friday and Saturday in which Taconic was presented as still thinking about the clinic.

An important element of the discussions was an oft-stated deadline of this evening at which time Taconic administrators would decide what construction project they would select for the coming school year.

Clifford J. Nilan, chairman of the Park Commission, and the most outspoken of its members in opposition to the deal as a dangerous precedent that could open other city parks to private use, reacted strongly to the news about Taconic.

"Why was this kept from us?" Nilan said. "Had we known that Taconic was no longer considering the clinic, it might have had a bearing on our thinking."

The commission voted 3-2 to allow BMC's use of parking space. Nilan said another meeting to reconsider the vote will be held in August.

David L. Dickhaus, one of the commission members who voted in favor of the request, stopped short of saying knowledge of Taconic's decision would have changed his vote.

"But I surely wouldn't have been so quick to approve," Dickhaus said.

Mayor appoints aide and maintenance head

PITTSFIELD — Elizabeth A.C. Crowell of Housatonic has been named by Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski as her administration's first executive assistant. The mayor also nominated Eugene L. Vidoli of 55 Wealthy Ave. to be the city's permanent director of maintenance.

Vidoli has been the maintenance director and plant supervisor at the Sheaffer Eaton company's former Church Street plant, but currently is one of the last exployees at the At-A-Glance plant, where he is manager of manufacturing and maintenance and of the tool room.

Sheaffer Eaton, for years one of Pittsfield's major employers, was acquired this year by its chief competitor, Keith Clark of Sidney, N.Y., which is shutting down the Pittsfield company's production lines.

Wojtkowski said yesterday she will seek confirmation of Vidoli's appointment from the City Council when it meets Tuesday night. It would be effective Sept. 19.

She said that Crowell's "solid and varied educational and professional background will make her a valuable addition to city government."" She will begin work Monday.

Crowell has been assistant director for information at the statewide Area Health Education Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester since 1980.

Her salary for the new position, which met with initial City Council reluctance, will be $22,500.

Wojtkowski wanted to create the position at the time she took office in January, saying that mayors in a number of other Massachusetts cities had executive assistants and that the work of the mayor's office required such an aide.

But Council members initially balked at the idea of adding a position to the payroll and at the $25,000 salary the mayor proposed. She won

Wojtkowski appoints two
Continued on Page B2

9-10-88

Wojtkowski appoints two

Continued from Page B1

backing finally in June by cutting back the salary and citing examples of executive assistants in municipalities like Holyoke, Taunton, Revere, Arlington and Peabody.

In nominating Vidoli for the maintenance post, the mayor is moving to fill the last major post in the city's administrative structure. As with most new mayors, Wojtkowski last January exercised her option of naming new faces to most of the supervisory posts in city government.

But she was unable to find anyone to head the Maintenance Department, at the time directed by William L. Thornton, a holdover from the administration of Mayor Charles L. Smith.

Thornton stayed until this summer, when he left to take another job, and Peter Hubby, second in command at the department, has headed it on an acting basis since then.

If he is confirmed by the council, Vidoli would be responsible for upkeep of the city's buildings, including the city's 13 schools and ancillary buildings.

He would draw a salary of about $39,000.

He is a 1950 graduate of the former technical program at Pittsfield High School, and studied business administration at Northeastern University in Boston before being called to active duty in the Navy. He is a 1952 graduate of the Navy Radio School.

He has held supervisory posts at the Beloit-Jones Inc. plant in Dalton and has worked in the transformer-manufacturing and ordnance plants at the GE in Pittsfield. He and his wife, Jane, have two grown children.

Crowell received a master's degree in liberal arts and administration from Clark University in Worcester in 1987. She has a bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts College of Art in fine arts and critical studies. She has also completed a program in proposal writing and has taken a number of courses in administration, social services and education.

At AHEC, she has helped in budget preparation and has written proposals, provided research on grants, done long-range planning, designed and edited publications and the like.

From 1978 through 1980, she was a legislative aide for Sen. Robert Wetmore of Barre. Since 1986, she has volunteered as a court-appointed special advocate, investigating custody and child-abuse cases.

Sunshine Photographics
Eugene L. Vidoli

9-10-88

City Hall harmony

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

After reading Ruth Bass's column "Footprints," [Eagle, Nov. 28], I was amazed at how eloquently she skirted around the real issue at hand. The issue is not whether Angelo Stracuzzi knows the process of making appointments. The real issue has nothing to do with appointments. It has to do with the lack of communication between the mayor and the City Council.

Let me remind you of a prime example of no communication between the mayor and the Council. Early in Anne Everest Wojtkowski's administration, she was deceitful with the Council. The mayor pretended she needed votes from the Council to furnish Pittsfield water to the Berkshire Mall in Lanesboro, when in fact, the water had been hooked up two weeks previously without Council knowledge or approval.

Angelo Stracuzzi is looking out for the best interests of our city and he has every right to be concerned about the lack of communication in City Hall.

I think a different civics lesson might be learned. Queens and dictators rule alone; mayors work with their elected officials.

CHRISTINE A. YON
12 Naples Ave.
Pittsfield

12-12-88

Christmas spirit

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The Christmas scene that is displayed in Pittsfield's Park Square is a beautiful example of the meaning of the season and of love for our fellow man.

ARNIE C. KARUSION
41 Oak St.
Dalton

Church and state

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Our congratulations to the Knights of Columbus and the clergy responsible for the ultimate relocation of the Christmas creche from Park Square to church property [Eagle, Dec. 3].

It is ironic that the creche, to many a symbol of God's love, has become an object of passionate debate and divisiveness in many communities throughout the nation. I would hope most of us would concur that in our contemporary pluralistic society, the constitutional provision for the separation of church and state is a wise one. To that end, regardless of what baffling legal opinions might condone, it was a wise and generous gesture to relocate the creche from public property to church property.

Our thanks to those responsible for such a sensitive response, which spares our community from such acrimonious and divisive debates. It would seem to me that in the final analysis, this gesture truly reflects the real spirit of the season.

GUSTAVE G. NELSON
81 South St.
Cheshire

12-9-88

Dept. 33
Material

Francese expected to win contract for Burbank Park improvements

PITTSFIELD — The contract for the proposed improvements at Burbank Park on Onota Lake is expected to be awarded to low bidder Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield for $379,379 by the end of the month.

According to Robert S. Mellace, a city planner and member of the Conservation Commission, the work has been scaled down from the original concept, which proved to be too expensive.

Mellace said he expects work — including beachhouse, beach, picnic area and playground — to begin next month.

The work is being funded with a $425,000 grant from the state Division of Conservation Services. The city contribution of $42,700 was more than expended by the design fee of $30,000 charged by C.T. Male Associates of Latham, N.Y., and $20,000 to purchase surrounding wetlands.

Last summer the work was stalled when bids came in at about $600,000, about twice as high as C.T. Male had projected. A saving is expected to result from substituting less expensive materials in construction of the new beachhouse, Mellace said.

Bids were opened April 1.

The project is co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission and the Parks Commission.

Francese was the low bidder of four. The high bidder was Soulier & Zepka Construction of Adams, with $477,329. Others bidding were J.H. Maxymillian and Renau Construction, both of Pittsfield.

Access for handicapped

Mellace said plans for improving the parking lot had to be postponed because of expense but that he hopes that work can be done eventually.

Standard masonry will be used instead of textured block, and the upper part of the building will be built of cedar, Mellace said. A standard ceiling will be built instead of a cathedral ceiling, and there will be less picnic and playground equipment than originally planned, he said.

The picnic area and beach house will be accessible to the handicapped, he said.

Vincent J. Hebert, commissioner of Community Services, said, "I'm very happy we finally got some bids in the range of our appropriation. The project has been delayed so long that we're going to try to get going as soon as possible.

"There may be some parking problems and minor disturbances, but we'll try to keep those at a minimum so patrons can enjoy the park."

Hebert said efforts are being made to increase security at the park, which has been plagued over the years by vandals and is a frequent site for beer parties.

Last summer an environmentalist's report warned that off-road vehicles were causing erosion and runoff problems, damaging trees, soil, vegetation and water quality. 4/10/88

Applicants sought for skating rink, ski tow jobs

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking applicants for the jobs of skating rink supervisors and ski tow operators.

Deadline for applications is Dec. 2, a Friday, according to John C. Marchesi, recreation director.

The department hopes to hire at least eight supervisors for the First Street Common skating rink, at $4.50 an hour, and four ski tow operators at $5.50 an hour, Marchesi said.

Hours for the rink will be 6:30 to 9 p.m. weekdays, and from 1 to 5 and 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Hours for the ski tow at Osceola Park are the same, depending on whether there is snow, Marchesi said. 11-25-88

Halloween party slated at Girls Club

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Girls Club's annual children's Halloween party will be Oct. 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., beginning with the "Grand March" around the gymnasium and costume judging. It will be open to children of kindergarten age and above.

There will be prizes for the funniest, scariest, most original, most-like-Halloween, prettiest and ugliest costumes. Activities will include a hay ride, pumpkin-painting and apple-bobbing contests, musical pumpkins and a haunted house. Refreshments will be served.

The Girls Club says parents will be asked to drop off and pick up their children unless they have been scheduled to volunteer. One hundred tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at no charge. Children must pick up their own tickets in the front office before the party.

The Pittsfield Department of Parks and Recreation is a co-sponsor. 10-21-88

Council in home stretch on budget

PITTSFIELD — The City Council is expected to make a series of final votes on Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski's $60.3 million budget tonight, including two measures the mayor says will be "premature."

The Council is set to decide, among other issues, whether to give the Parks Department its own director and whether to move the city's emergency dispatchers out of the Police Department.

In both cases the Council would delete funds earmarked for the system as it is structured now. Under the city charter, councilors can only recommend that Wojtkowski put the money back and structure the government their way.

Wojtkowski, who has been invited to tonight's session, differs with views expressed by the Council so far on the parks director and the dispatchers, saying both issues warrant further study.

In the case of the Parks Department, which is now under the umbrella of the Community Services Department led by Vincent J. Hebert, the Council argues that since the senior center, also under the Community Services, umbrella, is getting its own director the parks should as well.

Vincent's job as Community Services director, recommended by the Washington, D.C., consultants Cresap, McCormick & Paget, would be eliminated under the Council's plan.

The Council wants to move the city's emergency dispatchers, who take "911" calls, out of the Police Department and put them under the control of the Fire Department.

Several councilors have stated that certain emergency calls, such as car accidents, have not been handled properly in terms of the dispatching of fire equipment.

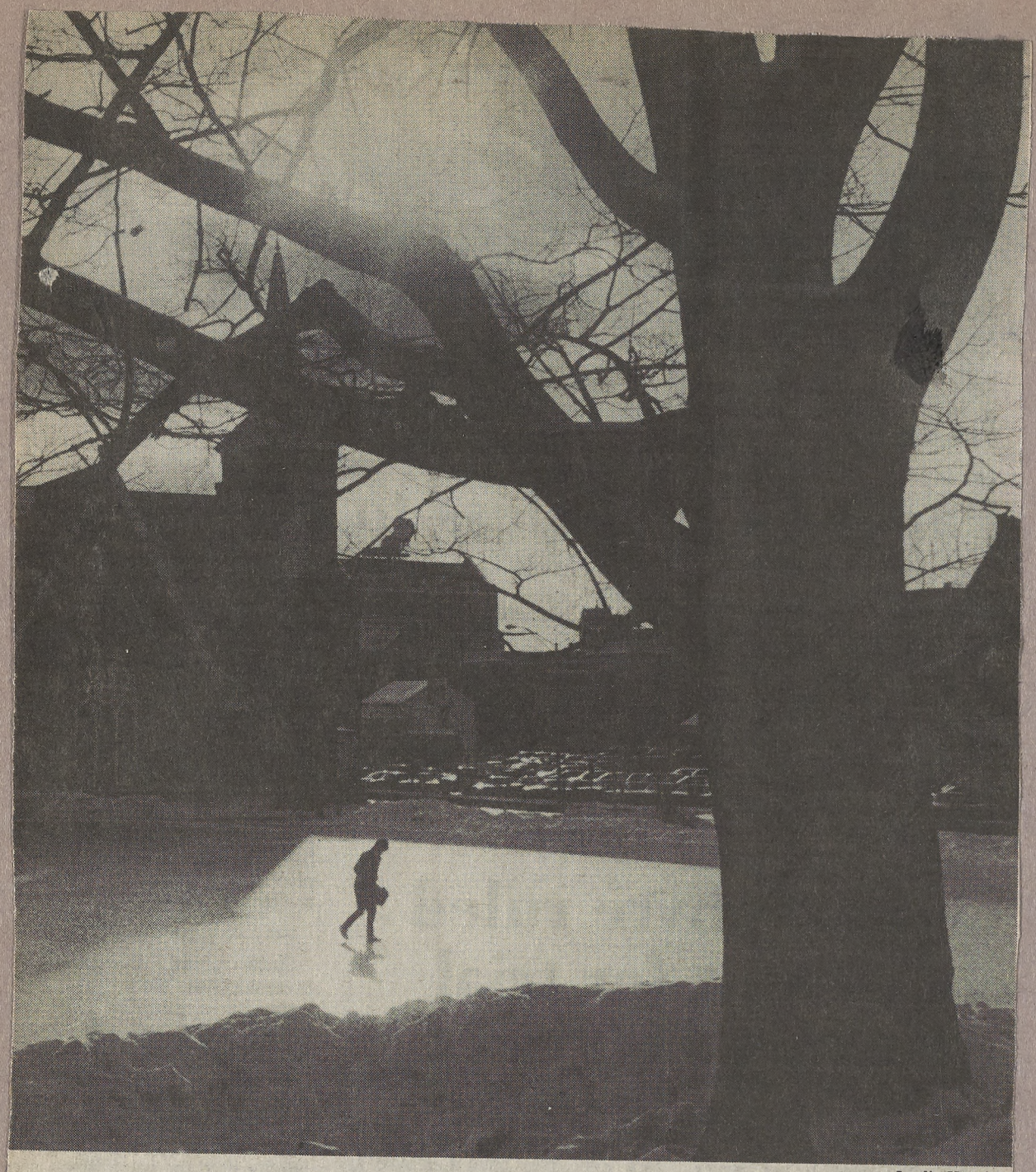
The mayor, however, said the issue is still under study. She is looking at how other cities handle emergency dispatching and reviewing the technical questions surrounding the routing of 911 calls.

Open to public

Final deliberations on several other budget issues will also be made at tonight's meeting, which is a hearing open to the public, said Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi.

The topics will include those items on which the Council requested more information in the previous four budget hearings, Stracuzzi said.

The Council is scheduled to deliberate on two final pieces of the budget picture June 9: the mayor's budget and the school budget. Another session is scheduled for the regular Council meeting June 14. The fiscal year starts July 1. 6/1/88



Leslie Harrison

Common crossing

Alone on the shining ice, Matthew Toughey, 13, of 24 Abbott St. crosses the skating rink on Pittsfield's Common on his way home from Pittsfield High School yesterday. 1/14/88

Brattlebrook Park cleanup sought

PITTSFIELD — Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos wants the Conservation Commission and Department of Public Works to clean up Brattlebrook Park.

In a petition to the City Council, Arlos said the two agencies should work together to rehabilitate the park's 5-acre area that was used to store debris from the freak Oct. 4 snowstorm last year.

Under former Commissioner Ralph W. Lake, the DPW directed residents to dump fallen tree limbs and the like at the park. The piles of debris were then burned.

Arlos said the park should not be left to "become a scrub lot," adding that he was concerned both on environmental grounds and because of the area's legal distinction as a park. The councilor wants the area cleaned up and planted with grass.

Landfill issue

There are other motives at work, however. In his petition, Arlos lashes out at the decision not to allow residents to haul debris to the Hubbard Avenue landfill, "as they had always done in the past."

The turning away of residents from the landfill is a weapon in the councilor's arsenal as he takes on Vicon Recovery Systems Inc., which began dumping ash from a Rutland, Vt., trash-to-energy plant at the landfill Jan. 13.

Arlos claims that Vicon, which is hauling the ash from Vermont because it has been blocked from dumping it there, is using the landfill for private gain when city residents themselves couldn't use it after the snowstorm.

The councilor has asked City Solicitor Michael J. McCarthy for a ruling on the matter. 1/25/88

Joel Librizzi

Storm pyre

Tons and tons of broken branches collected in Pittsfield following the devastating Oct. 4 snowstorm go up in smoke yesterday at Brattlebrook Park. Supervised by the Fire Department, the massive bonfire was begun Tuesday. 11/4/88

Leslie Noyes

ON THE AIR last evening were John Cessarich, giving the weather for WRGB-TV, and nearly 100 onlookers in Park Square where the station broadcast its 6:30 news using its new mobile satellite van for the first time.

Pittsfield featured on tube

By Linda Burchard
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A crew from WRGB-TV Channel 6 out of Schenectady, N.Y., took over Park Square last night to launch its mobile satellite van.

The van, called NewStar 6, topped by a dish and a 40-foot mast, will be at Tanglewood in Lenox tonight.

Liz Bishop and Brian Burnell of Channel 6 broadcast NewsCenter 6:30, the first of a sequence of programs titled "6 on the Square." The series is designed to demonstrate the station's new capacity to broadcast events from surrounding communities by means of its new satellite communications technology.

Pittsfield was the first of several to be visited this week.

While lights glared and cables snaked, nearly 100 onlookers, many of them waving small flags bearing the Channel 6 WRGB logo, watched the proceedings. The cameras were protected from the intermittent drizzle by a tent provided by Classical Tents of Lenox Dale.

Umbrellas, likewise bearing logos, covered Bishop and Burnell. John Cessarich forecast showers and thunderstorms for the evening.

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, in a 1½ minute interview, said the city, like many in the Northeast, was primarily concerned by a loss of manufacturing jobs. In order to address that problem, said Wojtkowski, the city was stressing development of small businesses, land, education and transportation.

The station's political commentator, Alan Chartock of Great Barrington, said he was better able to criticize New York politicians because he could come home to Massachusetts to get away from them.

Also interviewed was Margaret J. Borden, proprietor of the Popcorn Wagon.

As she waited her turn, she was heard to say, "I hope they hurry. Bingo starts in 45 minutes."

Taped segments included reminiscences by Pittsfield native Dan DiNicola, the station's arts and entertainment reporter, and a description of the uses of GE Plastics.

Interviewer Peter Bernard asked members of the crowd their opinion of the presidential candidacy of Gov. Michael S. Dukakis. Those responding included Joseph Guzzo of 365 Onota St., who said, "he's not for the people" because of the governor's support of the proposed Pittsfield bypass.

Eric Wilska termed Dukakis "the best of the mediocre."

Said Bishop, "Pittsfield people are tough." 7-27-88

Police say their presence saved child from abuse

PITTSFIELD — Police said an incident at Springside Park on Thursday proves that police presence prevents crime.

According to Det. Peter McGuire two police officers, Raymond A. Bush and Thomas Barber, were riding motorcycles through the park around 7 p.m. when they came across the man and child together in the woods. At the time the officers did not observe any unusual activity, but later learned that the child was reported missing by her mother.

The mother had told police that the man and the child were supposed to meet her at Newberry's on North Street, but that they failed to show up, said McGuire.

McGuire said an investigation revealed that the 24-year-old man was allegedly about to molest the child as the police drove by. Their presence caused him to stop what he was doing, the police reported.

Capt. Walter Boyer said the incident shows that more police presence on the streets could prevent crime.

The man has not been charged with molesting the girl but faces court on a charge of open and gross lewdness. 8-1-88

Castaways to play at Maplewood Park

PITTSFIELD — The Castaways will perform at Maplewood Park, at Maplewood Avenue and North Street, tomorrow from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The concert, which will include music from the big band era and rock 'n' roll, is part of the city-sponsored Twilight Concert Series.

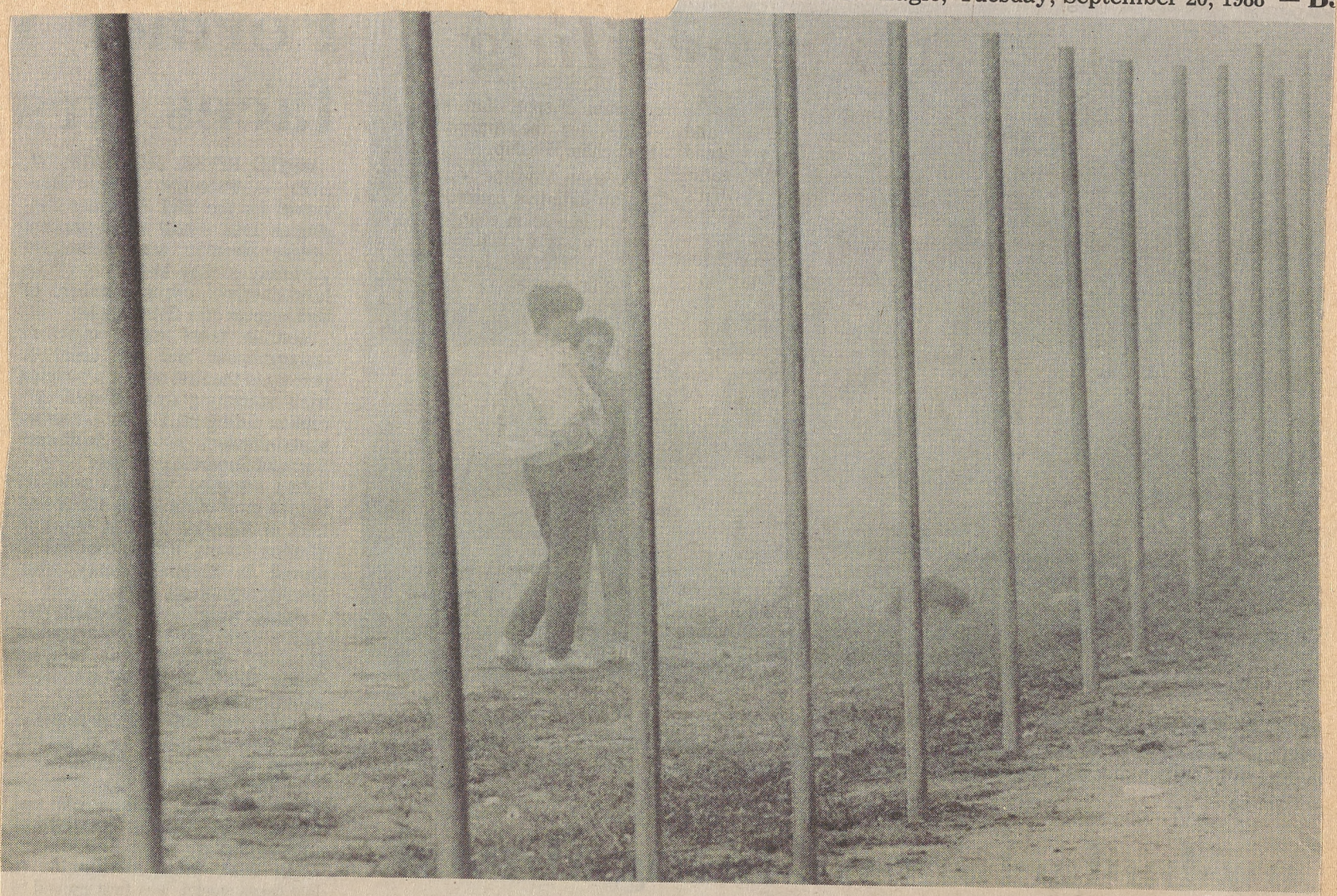
In case of rain, the performance will be in the auditorium of the Berkshire Athenaeum. 9-7-88

Downtown Concert

9-3-88

This quartet was part of the audience at a recent twilight concert in Pittsfield's Sotille Park at the corner of North and Eagle streets. The event was one of a series staged by the city's Department of Recreation.

The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, September 20, 1988 — B



Susan Plagema

Foggy bottom

Walkers Judy Zahn, at left, and Josephine May of Pittsfield visit for a moment before beginning their morning walk through a heavy fog at Clapp Park on West Housatonic Street in Pittsfield yesterday.

PITTSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR
1988-1989

1988 September 18

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1988 October 20

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1989 January 19

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1989 February 15

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1989 March 22

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1989 April 15

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1989 May 22

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1989 June 19

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☐	12	13	14	15	16	☐
☐	19	20	21	22	23	☐
☐	26	27	☐	☐	☐	

TOTAL — 185 days

*Dismissal at noon
September 6 — Convocation Day

Calendar includes 5 days for emergency weather conditions.
If these 5 emergency days are not used, schools will close on June 20.

Staff Development Days

October 6 (½ day)
November 8
January 13
March 6 (½ day) 2-6-88

Banjo Band to play on Tyler St. Thursday

PITTSFIELD — The Banjo Band will perform Dixieland music Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Tyler Restaurant parking lot, 796 Tyler St.

The concert is part of the Twilight Concert Series funded by the musicians' union and the city.

In case of rain, the concert will be held in the auditorium of the Berkshire Athenaeum. 7-20-88

Kazoo band

Politicians play along with guitarist David Grover, left, on City Hall steps at noon yesterday. From the left they are Councilor Imelda C. LaMountain, Councilor Caroline M. Bresnahan, Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, her daughter Marcella, one step above her mother, and Councilor James R. McCaffrey, Jr.

7-9-88

Concert tomorrow at Harry's market

PITTSFIELD — Misty Blue will perform rock 'n' roll and pop music tomorrow from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Harry's Supermarket, 290 Wahconah St.

The performance is part of the Twilight Concert Series sponsored by the city's Department of Recreation. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the auditorium of the Berkshire Athenaeum.

8-3-88

City Hall Journal

Mayor is going to have not one but two assistants this summer

PITTSFIELD — It wasn't enough that Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski appeared well on her way toward getting a full-time executive assistant this week. She also began accepting the services of Paula M. Baretzky, who has offered to do research and organizational work for the mayor for the next three months.

Baretzky, 29, a student in a calculus class of Wojtkowski's at Berkshire Community College, will do the job on a volunteer basis for June, July and August. Among her tasks will be the compilation of a booklet listing city boards and commissions, with current memberships and terms.

A Pittsfield native and 1977 graduate of Miss Hall's School, Baretzky received a degree in economics from Smith College in 1987. Before that she attended BCC and Mount Holyoke College.

Baretzky said she was seeking hands-on experience and approached Wojtkowski several weeks ago with the offer. "It was the perfect economic equation," she said. "She gets the research, and I get the experience."

Now commuting from Easthampton, Baretzky plans to stay in Becket for the summer. Can she afford to work for free? Baretsky, who is engaged, said that with the job market in finance and banking as tight as it is now, she can't afford not to have the experience. "More banks have closed this year than in the 1930s," she said.

Come July 1, the mayor may have two sets of helping hands in the office. On Wednesday the City Council gave preliminary approval for her departmental budget, which included a $22,500-a-year administrative assistant. The new staffer still needs final approval, however.

* * *

The credit tug-of-war between Mayor Wojtkowski and Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos continued this week.

The Council approved the mayor's proposal to apply for a $600,000 Community Development Action Grant for the Downing Industrial Park connector road at a special meeting Thursday, but Arlos claims it was originally his idea. The nine-term councilor did indeed file two petitions calling for the city to apply for the money and get the road under way.

"I'm glad the mayor belatedly recognized the soundness of my petition," Arlos, who has been harshly critical of Wojtkowski since she began in office Jan. 4, said in a statement Thursday. "I am looking forward to working together to bring this important project to fruition."

It's not the first time Arlos and the mayor — the two do not speak, at Arlos's request — have had this problem. After Wojtkowski announced two months ago that she wanted to move the city garage from the Maintenance Department to the Public Works Department, Arlos hurriedly pointed to a Jan. 12 petition proposing exactly the same thing.

In addition, when the mayor considered helping the 350 laid-off At-A-Glance workers in an employee buyout of the business, Arlos independently filed a petition asking the mayor to do precisely that.

Maybe the two great minds are thinking alike. There is a good deal of similarity between Wojtkowski's far-eastern alternative to the Route 7 bypass — which starts at the Massachusetts Turnpike and runs north somewhere parallel to Route 8 — and Arlos's much harped-on proposal for a Becket interchange and an improved north-south roadway.

* * *

A follow-up on this week's news: Building inspectors in Springfield and Greenfield approved the Great American Circus's big top bleachers Wednesday and Thursday. Pittsfield Building Inspector Robert J. Pomeroy outraged circus managers Tuesday night when he nixed the seats because they did not "look structurally sound."

Greenfield Building Inspector Bruce Austin said the seats were fine, according to The Greenfield Recorder. Austin told a reporter at the paper that Pomeroy may have been confused by the bracing used in the bleachers, which appears loose until people start sitting down and then it snaps into action.

About 1,000 people were forced to stand during the two-hour, one-night-only performance because the circus did not want to call off the show. Circus owner Allan C. Hill said it was the first time in the show's 30-year history that the seating had been disapproved.

6/5/88

Joel Librizzi

LAKE PEST, a weed called milfoil, is variously attacked with herbicides and harvesters.

County untangles lake weeds

By Gerald B. O'Connor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Weeds that clog beaches and basins of Berkshire County lakes have called forth demands for corrective action for at least two decades. From appearances, the only result has been money spent on notions and nostrums with no lasting results.

But as Berkshire County enters another summer season in hot weather that draws residents and visitors to the beaches and coves, there are signs that the effort to control the growth of underwater plant life is gaining some ground.

Since county government began massive weed-harvesting operations at Pontoosuc Lake last summer, says County Commissioner Peter F. Menard, he has heard more compliments than complaints from lake users.

Weed harvesting is a short-term maintenance effort, however. In terms of long-range planning, the County Commissioners will pass a milestone Tuesday when they open consultants' bids on the final design of an agricultural waste management system, a bureaucrat's label for a concrete tank to hold cow manure.

It will be the first example in the commonwealth of a public body having designed and built one of these systems on private land for a particular public benefit, namely, improvement of the environmental condition of a lake's watershed.

The watershed is the one around 460-acre Pontoosuc Lake, half in Pittsfield, half in Lanesboro, one of several Berkshire lakes used intensively for recreation but victimized by an ecological fact of life: eutrophication, the aging of lakes and ponds.

County untangles
Continued on Page A6

7-17-88

41.

Pittsfield Police Chief Dermody resigns

By Daniel T. Keating
Special to The Eagle

PITTSFIELD — Police Chief William M. Dermody is retiring, effective Oct. 1, Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski announced yesterday.

Dermody, 52, has been chief since Jan. 21, 1986. The mayor issued a press release that quoted the chief as saying, "I have several other interests I wish to pursue after retirement."

In a subsequent telephone interview the chief declined to specify the other interests but said he is considering a career change. He gave no other reason for his resignation, which caught public officials and members of his own department by surprise.

Administrative Capt. Cosmo Spezzaferro, a policeman for 19 years will be acting chief while a citizens' commission searches for a replacement, the mayor said.

She said she will seek City Council approval for formation of the commission, which she said would advertise in the Northeast, screen applicants, conduct interviews and provide a list of approximately five finalists for her to interview. The police chief's position is not under Civil Service, and the mayor said she wants to keep it that way.

Wojtkowski said Dermody told her two months ago that he did not intend to seek reappointment. The chief's three-year appointment by Mayor Charles L. Smith will expire in January.

The mayor, who replaced most of the department heads after taking over City Hall last November, would not say whether she had intended to nominate Dermody for reappointment.

"That's something we'll never know," she said.

"I have found him to be a very warm and friendly man who has been very cooperative with this administration," Wojtkowski said of Dermody. She said she never comments publicly on whether she is satisfied with the work done by her department heads.

She commended Dermody for his role in overseeing Operation Clean Sweep, a cooperative venture by the city and state police that led to the city's largest-ever drug raid in May.

Dermody will probably be best remembered for restoring calm in the Allen Street police station.

He took over from Chief Stanley Stankiewicz when hearings were being held on accusations from the rank-and-file that the former chief had run the department through fear and intimidation and also that his controversial special investigation unit had received unfair benefits and used improper practices.

While the public hearings were continuing in January 1986, the special unit arrested City Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi and his family for allegedly allowing gambling to go on in the family's bar on Wahconah Street. While the other family members all pleaded guilty or were found guilty, the council president was acquitted. He claimed that the arrest was politically motivated.

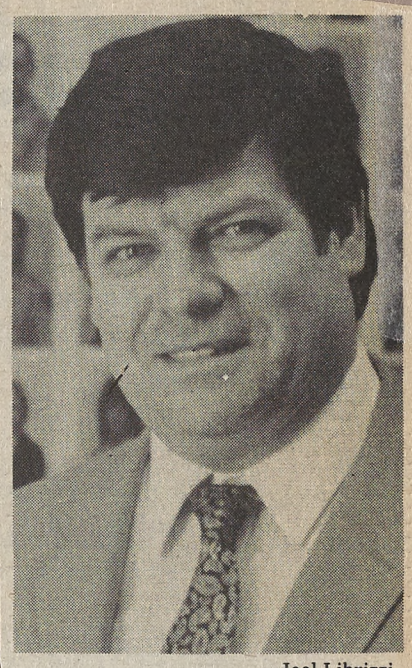
On the day he took over the department Dermody immediately disbanded the special unit, putting its three officers back in patrol positions. He sought to end internal strife and cooperate with the state police and district attorney's office.

"I accomplished quite a bit," he said yesterday. "I ended the chaos there."

Although the 27-year veteran of the force told the mayor months ago of his plan to step down, the announcement by the mayor yesterday afternoon caught the Police Department by surprise. The mayor said the announcement had not planned for this time but that the chief had filed papers with the city's Retirement Board yesterday. Once

Pittsfield chief
Continued on Page A10

9-13-88



Joel Librizzi

Police Chief William F. Dermody
An unexpected departure

Pittsfield chief resigns

Continued from Page A1

that action was taken, the mayor said, she decided that a public announcement had to be made immediately.

Spezzaferro, who will run the approximately 75-member department, "is a professional who knows the department well and will work to maintain their high standards while the process to replace Chief Dermody progresses," the mayor said. "We will make every effort to have a new chief in place early in 1989."

Dermody will use vacation time and sick leave to cover the time between Oct. 1 and the expiration of his appointment at the end of January. Wojtkowski said she did not know what the terms of the retirement would be.

9-13-88

* * * *

SOCCER LEAGUE: The Parks Department Summer Soccer League will have an organizational meeting Thursday, April 7, at 7. Anyone interested in coaching, refereeing or helping to organize the league should attend.

4/2/88

Area Sports

Babe Ruth loop slates tryouts

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield Babe Ruth League baseball program has scheduled tryouts for both its 13-year-old league and its league for 14-and 15-year-old players.

Candidates for the 13-year-old league should report for tryouts Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. Those trying out for the 14- and 15-year-old league are asked to report Saturday at 1 and Sunday at 2. All the tryouts are scheduled for Reid Middle School.

Tryouts will continued throughout next week at 6 p.m., with the exact tryout days depending on the number of participants. The league is still accepting late registrations.

The league is still seeking a coach and administrative help for its 13-year-old league. Anyone wishing to help in either of those capacities should contact league president Jim Hassett at his home on Wellington Avenue. 4/21/88

* * * *

BABE RUTH BASEBALL: The Pittsfield Babe Ruth Baseball League has scheduled a meeting Saturday at 9 a.m. at Springside House, 874 North St., for all board members, coaches and anyone else interested in becoming involved with the program.

Coaches and assistants are needed for the 13-year-old league, the age 14-15 league and the age 17-18 league. 4/15/88

BABE RUTH TOURNAMENT: The county 13-year-old Babe Ruth League tournament will begin Saturday at 1 p.m. at Benedict Field.

Pittsfield, Lee, Dalton, Adams-Cheshire and South County make up the field. 6/30/88

* * * *

10 Years Ago

Charlotte H. Pignatelli of 69 Taconic Ave., Lenox, head teacher at the Lenox Dale Elementary School, retired after 23 years of teaching.

Kenna B. Hoellerich of Savoy was elected president of the Northern Berkshire Council of the Arts.

Tim Alibozek and Jon White had three hits each in leading Itam to its 10th straight win, a 9-4 decision over General Electric in Pittsfield 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League. 6/30/88

* * * *

BABE RUTH UMPIRES: The Pittsfield Babe Ruth League is seeking umpires for its age 13, 14 and 15 leagues. The league is scheduled to begin Sunday. Interested candidates should contact Paul Guillou, 80 Lyman St. 5/11/88

* * * *

Pittsfield Babe Ruth

Jim Keefner racked up 14 strikeouts and ripped a two-run double as Oliver Auto Body rolled to a 12-4 win over Besse-Clarke in the Pittsfield 14 and 15-year-old Babe Ruth League.

Marc McNeice added two hits and a pair of RBI for Oliver's, while John Noonan struck out 13 in a losing cause for Besse's.

Bob Barzotttini went 3-for-3 with three RBI and winning pitcher Dave Tarjick knocked in three runs with a pair of hits as GEAA rolled past GE 17-9. Josh Zolkowski had three hits and two RBI for the winners.

Mike Mazzeo had four hits including a triple as GE raced past Oliver Auto Body 7-4, while Mazzeo gained the pitching win and delivered a single and double as GE downed Besse-Clarke by the same 7-4 score. Josh Tobin went 2-for-3 in each of those games for GE, and struck out nine while earning the mound win against Oliver's.

Scott Miller went 2-for-2 while Shaun Sultaire added a double and three RBI as IUE Local 255 routed Besse-Clarke 18-2. J.R. Rand was the winning pitcher.

Dan Roy gained the win on the mound as Sons of Italy defeated VFW 7-2. Tony Segala went 2-for-4 to lead VFW, while losing pitcher Mike Somerville registered 11 strikeouts.

Babe Ruth news

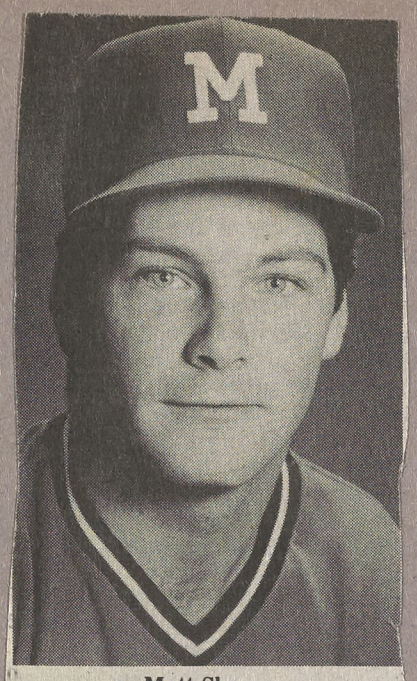
The Pittsfield Babe Ruth Baseball League is seeking a scorekeeper for games at Benedict Road field. Games are played in the early evenings during the week and during the day on weekends. The pay is $8 per game and interested candidates should contact Mike Mougin, 76 Quirico Drive.

The Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth League will conduct a tryout Sunday at 6 p.m. at Mount Everett Regional School for players from the Sheffield and Egremont areas. The tryout will be rain or shine, and players should bring birth certificates. Players must not have reached their 16th birthday by Aug. 1, and must be at least 13 by that date. 5/26/88

Billy Lake allowed just two hits and Gary Symanski banged out three hits offensively to lead Adams Super Markets to a 14-0 romp over Hellawell in Pittsfield Babe Ruth League play for 13-to-15-year olds. 6/27-88

* * * *

SENIOR BABE RUTH: Registration and tryout for the Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League baseball program have been scheduled for tomorrow at 6 p.m. at Crosby Middle School. The league is for players ages 16 through 18. Interested players who are unable to attend should contact Jim McKenna, 1 Fairfield St. 6/6/88



Matt Sheran
All-New England in baseball

Matt Sheran is All-N.E. in baseball

AMHERST — Pittsfield's Matt Sheran, an outfielder and pitcher who hit .330 and set season and career records in stolen bases at the University of Massachusetts this season, has been named to the All-New England college baseball first team along with two of his UMass teammates.

Sheran, a former Taconic High star who was the 1984 WBEC Sports Caravan Berkshire County Male Athlete of the Year, is joined on the first team by teammates Gary DiSarcina (a junior shortstop from Billerica) and Dave Telgheder (a pitcher from Slate Hill, N.Y.)

Sheran, a senior, will now be part of the University Division team that will play against the College Division team in an all-star game at Fenway Park in Boston Tuesday at 1 p.m. In that game, Sheran will be playing against Dalton's Jim Duquette, an All-New England outfielder from Williams College, for the second time in three years.

Sheran, the winner of the Al Bianchi Scholarship and a Billy McKeever Memorial Scholarship as a senior at Taconic, was the recipient of this year's Dennis Dellapiana Award at UMass, which is presented for courage, determination and sportsmanship.

Playing all 52 games this year for the 36-16 Minutemen, Sheran hit .330 (63-for-191) with 14 doubles, a triple, five homers and 30 RBI. He set school records with 32 steals this season (in 42 attempts) and 72 for his career. He also led the team with six game-winning hits.

In addition, Sheran posted a 1-0 pitching record with one save, chalking up a 1.38 ERA in 13 innings, including one complete game. He struck out seven and walked four.

Teammate Darrin O'Connor, a second baseman from Chatham, N.Y., hit .272 with a team-high 15 doubles, 12 stolen bases and 29 RBI in 52 games. 5/27/88

Youth baseball

7-13-88

Pittsfield faces Lee in Babe Ruth 13s tilt

Pete Aldrich scored the winning run as Lee edged Dalton 6-5 Sunday in the Berkshire County 13-year-old Babe Ruth baseball tournament.

Lee will host Pittsfield today at 5:30 in the semifinal, with the winner advancing to visit unbeaten Adams Saturday for the championship in the double-elimination tournament. If Adams loses the first game Saturday, a second game will be played immediately after to determine the champion.

In the Pittsfield 13-year-old league, Im-Press Printing won 18-9 over Lipton Energy and 16-1 over Quality Auto Body, clinching the league's second-half title. Im-Press also won the first half, and lost only one game all year.

Kevin O'Donnell had four hits and Jeff Murray a triple, double and single against Lipton, which got three hits from Joe Lipa. Dennis Williams pitched a two-hitter and O'Donnell belted two homers and a single against Quality. Mike McHugh and Tony Sickell had two hits each and Bill Murphy homered for the winners.

Umpire recognition

Four Berkshire County umpires have been accepted into the National Umpires Association, the national Babe Ruth Baseball headquarters in New Jersey has announced.

The four, who all passed written tests, include Wray Gunn and Steve Ricciarini of Pittsfield, Ray Pierson of Lenox and Paul Gibbons of Great Barrington.

Youth baseball

Oliver's wins 12-inning Babe Ruth game

PITTSFIELD — Chris Herrick's RBI single broke a 9-9 tie and gave Oliver's Auto Body a 10-9 extra inning win over the GEAA in Pittsfield Babe Ruth 14-15 year old baseball league play. The 12-inning marathon lasted 3½ hours. Winning pitcher Mark McNeice had four hits for the winners.

In other action, Matt Blake and Tony Segalla each had two hits for the Itam Lodge in a 5-4 win over VFW. Mike Wolkowski and Jason Goldsmith each had two hits for VFW.

Jim Keefner struck out seven as Oliver's defeated the GEAA 5-3. Kevin Ross led the winners with two hits and two RBI.

Itam got a 10-strikeout performance by Bill Quadrozzi in a 6-1 win over IUE. John Landers went 3-for-3 while Quadrozzi and Goldsmith each had two hits off losing pitcher Brandon Ferris. Sean Soltaire had two hits for IUE.

Winning pitcher Josh Tobin went 3-for-5 with a home run and four RBI as GEAA defeated VFW 17-10. Mike Muzzeo and Brian Diehl each had two hits for the winners, while Jim Manns had three hits and four RBI for VFW.

IUE defeated GEAA 9-8, as Scott Miller and winning pitcher Jason Virgilio each homered. Virgilio had three RBI while Miller had two. Scott Schultz had two hits and two RBI for GEAA.

VFW downed Besse-Clarke 10-9 as Mike Danylieko went 2-for-4 with two RBI. Brian Bronk had two hits for Besse.

GEAA defeated the VFW 5-2, thanks to a three-hitter by David Tarjick. Scott Schultz and Josh Zolkowski each had two hits in a winning effort.

7-10-88

Youth baseball

IUE 255 wins 2 games to earn Babe Ruth title

PITTSFIELD — They needed two playoff games, but IUE 255 has won the Pittsfield 14-15 Babe Ruth baseball title. IUE 255 did it by defeating ITAM 4-1 and GE 9-8.

The three-way playoff was needed because although IUE won the second-half championship outright, the three teams involved in the playoff tied for the first-half title.

IUE 255 scored three runs in the last two innings to defeat GE 9-8 in the final playoff game. Keith Ferris got credit for the game-winning RBI, which came in the seventh. IUE trailed 8-6 after five innings but scored one run in the sixth and two in the seventh for the victory.

GE had taken an 8-5 lead, thanks to a four-run top of the sixth.

Jason Virgilio picked up the win in relief, and he also had a pair of hits. Jim Clark led IUE 255 with two hits and two RBI. Josh Tobin took the loss in relief for GE.

In the first playoff game, Mike Filiault tossed a six-hitter and struck out 11 ITAM batters in recording the victory. Jason Virgilio was the key hitter for the winners, with two hits and an RBI.

For ITAM, Bo Quadrozzi also pitched a six-hitter while striking out seven. Two of the four runs scored by IUE off Quadrozzi were unearned. Along with his pitching prowess, Quadrozzi had two of ITAM's six hits.

Minor League playoffs

The Pittsfield Minor League will begin its 1988 City Championship Tournament tomorrow at Brown Street Field.

The double-elimination tournament begins with North Division champion Dalton Avenue Variety vs. West Division winner Quality Kitchen and Bath. The loser plays Tuesday against South Division champion Greenleaf Auto Body.

All tournament games begin at 6 p.m.

8-7-88

Looking Back

50 Years Ago

A general reduction in bread prices, the largest here in recent years, went into effect in local chain and independent stores. The drop in most cases was around 2 cents a loaf. Bread prices ranged from around 7 cents to 10 cents a loaf.

10 Years Ago

Mark Farrell, 15-year-old catcher for Imperial Lanes, won the batting crown of the Babe Ruth Baseball League's National Division this year with an average of .545, highest ever recorded in 12 seasons of Babe Ruth play in Pittsfield.

Joseph LaRose of Baglee Avenue, Lanesboro, was elected commander of the Louis D. Barnes American Legion Post 446 of Lanesboro. He succeeded Robert Carmel.

The annual archery tournament conducted by the Pittsfield Department of Parks and Recreation was won in all three age divisions by youngsters from Springside playground. Jim Delphia won the midget division with 109 points, John Reid, the junior division with a score of 166, and in the senior category, Sam Bows with 282 points.

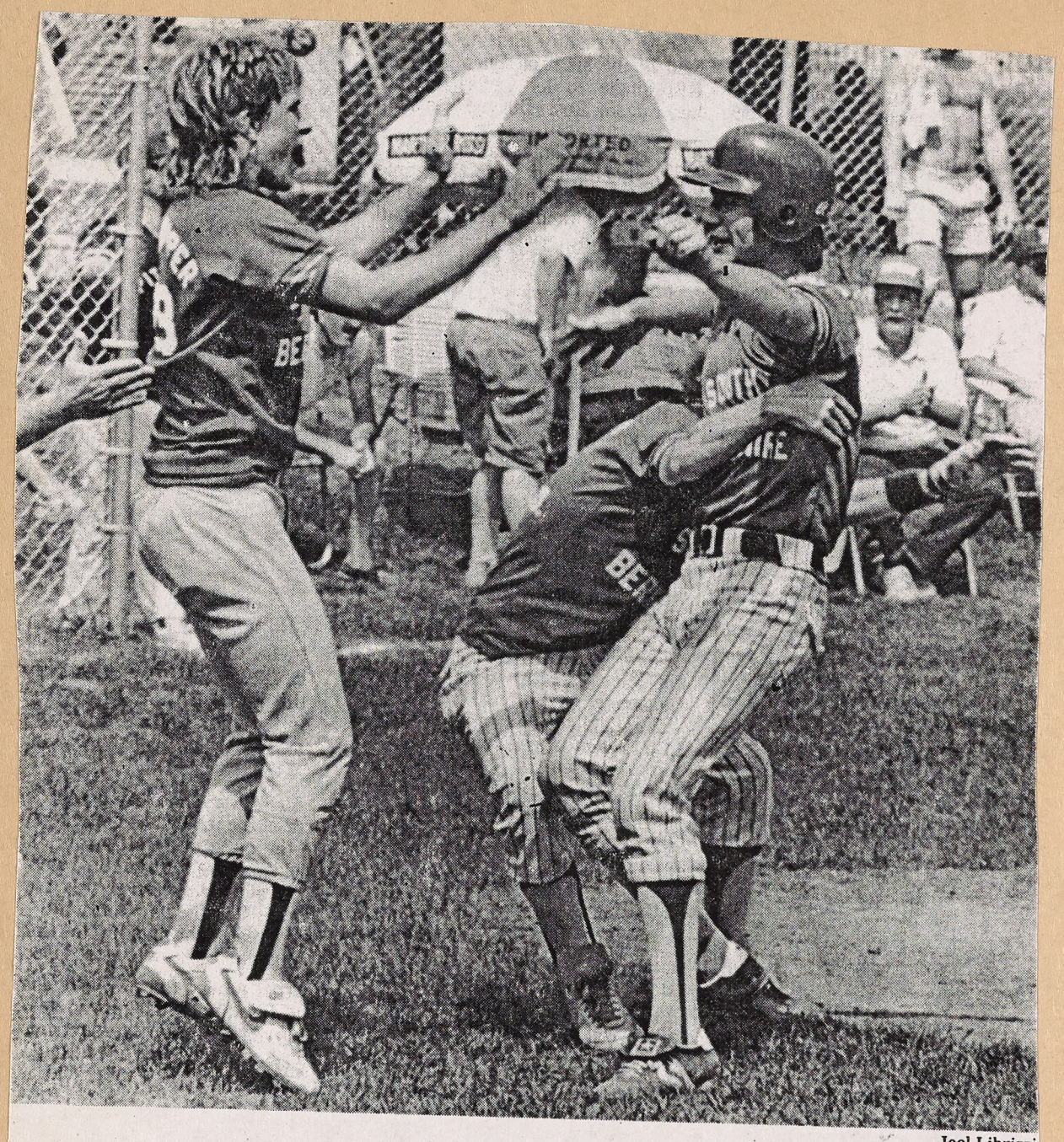
10 Years Ago

The 10-week strike of the 400-member United Electrical Workers Union Local 212 against the E.D. Jones division of Beloit Corp. ended with union ratification of a three-year contract with the company.

Dr. Michael S. Cohn of 55 Rockland Drive, Pittsfield, became associated with Berkshire Surgical Associates Inc. at 199 South St. to practice general and vascular surgery. He was formerly chief resident in general surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y.

George H. Genzmer, 82, of 62 Livingston Ave., editor, historian and retired librarian and faculty member of Berkshire Community College, died at Berkshire Medical Center, following a long illness.

8-22-88



Joel Librizzi

A celebration begins

It's time for jubilation as Dan Lanoue scores the winning run for South Berkshire in the bottom of the seventh inning of yesterday's Babe Ruth District 1 final. Ready with the high five for Lanoue is winning pitcher John Kay, left, as South Berkshire's age 14-15 team defeated Pittsfield 10-9 at Great Barrington's Memorial Field. Story, other photo on Page D2. 7-11-88

Lee wins Senior Ruth title

PITTSFIELD — Joe Moretz pitched a five-hitter and went 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles last night to lead Lee to a 4-1 win over Pittsfield in the Berkshire County Senior Babe Ruth League championship game at Clapp Park.

Moretz struck out seven to earn the mound win, and was supported by David Harrison, who had a double and two RBI for the visitors.

For Pittsfield, Ed Sherman struck out seven in taking the pitching loss. Offensively, Marty Mayberry had a single and a triple and Mark McKenna a single and double to account for four of Pittsfield's five hits.

8-10-88

Youth baseball

IUE squeezes out 3-2 Babe Ruth win

Mike Lysobey's squeeze bunt scored the winning run as IUE 255 defeated the GEAA 3-2 in Pittsfield Babe Ruth 14-15 League action. Mike Filiault struck out 11 in a winning effort, while Paul Callahan homered for the GEAA's only run.

Jason Goldsmith and Jason Virgilio engaged in a pitchers duel, with Goldsmith's Itam lodge team coming out on the plus side of a 3-2 win over IUE 255. Both Goldsmith and Virgilio struck out 11 batters. Mike Woitkowski had two hits for the winners, while J.R. Rand had two hits for IUE 255.

Jim Keefner had four hits, including a home run and six RBI as Oliver Auto Body defeated the GEAA 13-7. Dave Tarjick led the GEAA with three hits. Matt Ross got credit for the win.

VFW defeated Besse-Clarke 11-2, with Matt Blake getting the win. Blake and Anthony Segala each had two hits for the winners, while Mike Dietlin had two hits for Besse.

Filiault and Brandon Ferris each had two hits as IUE 255 downed the VFW 8-6 in eight innings. Rand got the win, while Mike Manns led the VFW with two hits.

Mike Boyd pitched and batted Oliver Auto Body to an 8-5 victory over Besse-Clarke. Boyd had two hits and registered the win, while Paul Bowman had two hits for Besse.

Tuy Huynh collected four hits as the GEAA downed Oliver Auto Body 17-2. Mike Mazzeo added three hits for winning pitcher Josh Tobin. Keefner homered for Oliver.

VFW defeated Itam 9-4, with Blake getting the win and knocking out three hits. Bob Letteney, Matt Benlein and Randy Bonito also had three hits each for the winners. Paul Dowd had two hits for Itam.

Brandon Ferris's grand slam helped IUE 255 defeat Besse-Clarke 21-5. Ferris had four hits on the game, as Rand picked up a victory. Bob Porter, Paul Bowman and Bob Desnoyers each had two hits for Besse-Clarke.

GEAA defeated Comfed 13-8, with Josh Zolkowski earning the victory. Paul Callahan had three hits to lead GEAA, while Brian Bordeau, Matt Mickle and Neil Roberts each had two hits for Comfed.

Dalton Babe Ruth

Jim White tossed a two-hit shutout in the Dalton Babe Ruth League as his American Legion team routed L.P. Adams 18-0. White, Eric Day, Adam Brown and Matt Rose led the Legion attack with three hits apiece.

L.P. Adams, however, rebounded for an 11-8 victory over the Legion, with Eric Furlong gaining the win on the mound. Brown struck out 16, a league-high for the season, in a losing cause for the Legion. Brown and the Legion's Todd Watson had two hits apiece.

Bill Hauser racked up 14 strikeouts and Brendan Renanye rapped out a pair of hits as Byron-Weston downed the American Legion by an 18-3 count. Brown and White each had two hits for the Legion. 7-12-88

Youth baseball tournaments

Adams wins county 13s Ruth title, 3-1

ADAMS — Wyatt Furey pitched a two-hitter yesterday as the undefeated Adams all-stars earned their first berth in the state 13-year-old Babe Ruth Baseball Tournament with a 3-1 victory over Pittsfield at Renfrew Field.

Adams, which posted a 2-1 win over Pittsfield earlier in the tournament, will open state tournament play Saturday at 4 p.m. in Worcester against the host Burncoat team.

Yesterday, Adams overcame a 1-0 deficit with two runs in the fifth inning. Paul Roy and pinch hitter Chad Anderson hit back-to-back doubles for the first run, and a Pittsfield error on a pickoff play enabled Anderson to score the second run.

Furey, who got his only strikeout in a clutch situation with two runners on in the top of the sixth inning, gave Adams an insurance run in the bottom of the inning. He singled, stole second and third and scored on an error.

Pittsfield's run came in the fourth inning, when Ryan O'Donnell doubled, was sacrificed to third and scored on an Adams error.

O'Donnell hurled four scoreless innings for Pittsfield, and reliever Bill Murphy took the loss. Together, O'Donnell, Murphy and Chris Mastrodicasa allowed only six Adams hits.

South Berkshire bows

WORCESTER — The Southern Berkshire Babe Ruth League All-Stars received a rude welcome to the Western State 14 and 15-year-old tournament yesterday. The Berkshire County champions were beaten 22-6 by the host Joe Schwartz League in the first round of the double-elimination tournament. No other information on the game was available.

The Schwartz stars now move on to a second-round winners' bracket game today at 5 against Wachusett. The loss means that South Berkshire will next play in a losers' bracket game tomorrow.

South Berkshire must now win six straight games to capture the title. The tournament finals are scheduled for Wednesday.

7-17-88

46.

S. Berkshire nips Pittsfield 10-9 for Babe Ruth title

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

GREAT BARRINGTON — Chris Kay faced a two-strike count with none out in the bottom of the seventh inning and a runner on third. Kay's South Berkshire Babe Ruth team had just seen Pittsfield tie the score 9-9 in the top of the seventh of the Berkshire County championship. Coach John Lucey went out to calm his batter.

"I told him no matter what, if he got a hit or struck out, his mother's going to give him supper and I'm going to buy him a big soda," Lucey explained.

Those calming words must have helped, because Kay lined reliever Mike Sommerville's next pitch into center, scoring Dan Lanoue and giving South Berkshire a tournament-winning 10-9 win yesterday at Memorial Field in the double-elimination event.

"It seemed way too hot to play," said Kay after the game, his flushed face creased with a large smile. "You couldn't see because of the sweat."

The win over Pittsfield, and the heat, by the 14-15 year old South Berkshire team means it will continue on in the double-elimination state tournament Saturday in Worcester. South Berkshire will face the Worcester All-Stars at 5 p.m. at Schwartz Field.

A hot finish

Temperatures were pushing 100 degrees as the two finalists had to gather still more strength to play the bottom of the seventh. Lanoue led off the inning with a walk off Pittsfield starter Jonah Goldsmith. With the walk, coach Mike Tuohy came out with the hook for his pitcher.

Sommerville came on for Pittsfield and Lanoue stole second, and went to third on a wild pitch. That set the stage for Kay's heroics.

"I was so nervous, I just wanted to hit anything," Kay recalled. "I just wanted to win the game for the team and for [twin brother] John."

That single was needed, because John Kay ran into a problem in the top half of the seventh. Behind 9-7, Pittsfield scored two runs. Rob Porter's sacrifice fly to left drove home Bill Quadrozzi, who had reached third on a two-base error and a wild pitch. Matt Tuohy's RBI single, his fourth RBI of the game, drove home Scott Schultz (who had walked) with the tying run, setting the stage for Chris Kay's heroics.

"I felt if we could get out of the inning tied, we could come back and win it," Lucey said.

South Berkshire had taken its 9-7 lead in the sixth on Burr Duryee's RBI single to left, scoring pinch hitter Jason Ross. Duryee was 3-for-4.

"That was some ball game," a happy Lucey said after the game. "Those kids have a lot of guts. They played good fundamental baseball, settled down toward the end and came up with the big plays."

A defensive stopper

The game's biggest defensive play came with the bases loaded and South Berkshire ahead 8-7 in the Pittsfield fifth. Tuohy hit a grounder to third, which third baseman Matt Emprimo backhanded off balance. He spun and tossed a perfect strike to the plate, where Mark LaRose tagged Quadrozzi out easily.

"That was a key play for us," lamented Pittsfield coach Tuohy. "If we could have gotten that run, we'd still have the bases loaded and possibly a big inning."

John Kay settled down after the defensive sparkler by Emprimo and got Mike Filiault, pinchhitting for Goldsmith, on a fly ball to center.

Pittsfield couldn't capitalize in the fifth, but managed five runs in the third on three hits to cut its deficit to 8-7. The key blow was a bases-loaded double to the fence in right by Tuohy. Schultz also recorded an RBI with a single, while the fifth run scored on a wild pitch.

Getting out quickly

Pittsfield got out of the gate quickly with a pair of manufactured runs in the first. Mike Woitkowski walked, stole second and went to third on a Josh Tobin ground out. Woitkowski scored on Gary Traversa's sacrifice fly. After Jim Manns reached first on an error, Quadrozzi hit a bloop single scoring Manns, who was running with two outs.

Joel Librizzi

OUT AT HOME is South Berkshire's Baron Avratin as he tries to score on a single by Burr Duryee during yesterday's Berkshire County Babe Ruth final in Great Barrington. Making the tag is Pittsfield catcher Bill Quadrozzi on the throw from left fielder Mike Woitkowski. South Berkshire clinched the title with a 10-9 win.

South Berkshire came back in its half of the inning, sending 12 batters to the plate in an eight-run stanza. Clovis Young's three-run home run to straightaway center was the big blow. Pittsfield's Goldsmith surrendered eight hits in the inning, but got all three outs on strikeouts.

That proved to be a harbinger for the Pittsfield pitcher, who gave up only three hits in the next four innings. At one point, Goldsmith retired 10 of 11 South Berkshire batters.

The middle innings also proved to be good ones for Kay, who gave up only two hits in the final four innings of the game.

"We couldn't get the key run, that's all," explained Pittsfield coach Tuohy. "I thought we were going to tie the game a couple of times, but we couldn't get key hits.

"You have to give South Berkshire a lot of credit too. They played a good game, and stopped us when they needed to," he added.

Chris Kay helped out with the bat as well as his arm, going 3-for-4 with two RBI. Quadrozzi and Schultz each had two hits for Pittsfield.

Youth baseball, softball

Senior Babe Ruth League slates registration

The Pittsfield Senior Babe Ruth League baseball program will hold registration tomorrow from 6:30 until 8 p.m. at Springside House on North Street.

Applicants for the league must be between the ages of 16 and 18. Players desiring more information may contact Jim McKenna at his home on Fairfield Street. 5/30/88

Leslie Harrison

Senior stopper

BRL 6/1/88

Pittsfield High left-hander John DiNicola gets set to deliver a pitch to home plate during his three-hit shutout of Monument Mountain that led to a 6-0 PHS victory and clinched the Northern Division baseball championship for the Generals. Story, other photo on Page D2.

Pittsfield Babe Ruth

GEAA scored a couple of high-scoring victories last week in the Pittsfield age 14-15 Babe Ruth League at Deming Field, 20-5 over Besse-Clarke and 18-9 over Comfed.

Josh Zolkowski and Bob Barzottini had four hits each and Dom Giardina and winning pitcher Paul Callahan three each in the win over Besse-Clarke, which got two apiece from John Noonan and Mike Danylieko. Callahan again got the win and joined Barzottini with three hits each against Comfed, which got three hits from losing pitcher Matt Mickle.

In other games, winning pitcher Mike Manns homered and Anthony Segala, Brandon Collins and Danny Lay had two hits each as VFW won 10-4 over Comfed; Mike Filiault had a homer and two singles and Jason Virgilio a homer and single to lead IUE to a 15-6 win over Comfed; Dave Moon homered and winning pitcher Mickle homered as Comfed posted a 3-2 win over Itam; and Gary Traversa had four hits and Brian Poopor, Mike Mazzeo, Josh Tobin and Tuy Huynh three each as GE wiped out Besse-Clarke 21-9.

In losing causes, Danylieko homered and Noonan and Bob Porter had two hits each for Besse-Clarke, Mike Woitkowski and Matt Touhey had two hits apiece for Itam and in two losses for Comfed, Dave Moon had two hits in one game and Rick Farrell and Brian Bordeau two each in the other. 7-6-88

A solid relief pitching effort by Rocky Daley carried Hellawell Cadillac to an 11-7 extra-inning victory over Gull Oil in Pittsfield's 13-to-15-year-old Babe Ruth League action. Chris Powell and Sean Carroll had two hits each for Hellawell, while Dave Cancilla and Chris Tierney had two safeties each for Gull. 8-10-88

10 YEARS AGO

County Babe Ruth playoffs

Adams reaches 13-year-old finals

Adams reached the finals of the Berkshire County 13-year-old Babe Ruth baseball tournament with a 2-1 victory over Pittsfield last night.

Paul Roy pitched a six-hitter for the complete-game win, and broke a 1-1 tie with the game winning single in the fourth inning for Adams.

Adams, the last unbeaten team in the tournament, will host the finals July 16. The opponent isn't yet determined. Dalton will host Lee Sunday at 1, and the winner will host Pittsfield July 13, with the winner of that game playing at Adams for the title.

Last night, Pittsfield took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third inning when Gordy Soldato walked and scored on a fielder's choice by Ryan O'Donnell. Adams tied it in the bottom of the third when Dave Kalisz singled and scored on a double by Tom Kozak, who was 3-for-3. Losing pitcher Chris Mastrodicasa had three hits for Pittsfield.

Age 14-15 tournament

Pittsfield beat Adams 7-6 Thursday night to reach the finals of the Berkshire County age 14-15 Babe Ruth tournament.

Paul Callahan pitched the complete-game win for Pittsfield, which overcame a 6-4 deficit with three runs in the fifth inning, when Jim Manns and Rob Porter had RBI singles. Josh Tobin had three hits and Manns and Porter two each for the winners.

Pittsfield will now visit South Berkshire tomorrow at 1 at Memorial Field (near Searles Middle School) in Great Barrington for the championship. A win by unbeaten South Berkshire would give the home team the title. If Pittsfield wins, there will be a second game about 20 minutes after the first. The county champion goes on to the Western state championship in Worcester beginning July 16. 7-9-88

Joel Librizzi

Skating on the Common

1/11/88

Skating on the First Street Common in Pittsfield resumed over the weekend after last week's cold spell provided the conditions needed to flood and freeze the rink. Unfavorable conditions had made creating the rink impossible over the last few years.

Joel Librizzi

Super slide

Rumbling down the hill at Clapp Park yesterday was this behemoth of a sliding apparatus carrying 17 people (count 'em). Called a "Fun Island" and intended for use on water, the inflatable round raft is the property of Sharron Clairmont of 5 Spring St., who is smiling at the back of the pack.

1/18/88

Garner new head of sports group

PITTSFIELD — Gail Garner of 92 Holmes Road has been elected chairman of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee for the 1988-89 season.

She succeeds David Melle, who served the maximum of three years and remains on the committee.

Edward Pezze was elected vice-chairman; Melanie Polidoro, secretary; Sheryl Garner-Gorton, historian, and Patricia Peaslee was re-elected treasurer.

3/5/88

Winter sports group allocates $1,335

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee of the Department of Recreation has allocated $1,335 to organizations and competitors through its Financial Assistance Committee.

Individual recipients were free-style skier Jeff Hunt and 1988 Winter Olympic ski team member Heidi Voelker.

Organizations were the Pittsfield Figure Skating Club, Boys' Club Hockey Program, St. Joseph's High School Booster Club for its hockey and ski teams and the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club.

The funds were raised through the annual winter sports equipment sale and the sale of Winter Carnival buttons by queen contestants.

4/20/88

Joel Librizzi

Joy ride

Cold temperatures and a dusting of snow this week made tobogganing possible if not ideal at Clapp Park in Pittsfield. 1/2/88

Joel Librizzi

DOG POWER gives 5-year-old George R. Daniels a ride on his snow tube yesterday at Clapp Park. Guiding Roscoe (the dog) is the youngster's father, George Daniels of 135 Robbins Ave., Pittsfield. 1/11/88

Joel Librizzi

Super sliding 1/11/88

Youngsters and parents flocked to Clapp Park in Pittsfield yesterday to enjoy excellent sliding conditions brought on by the fresh snow.

Special Olympians even say 'thanks' in penalty box

By Howard Herman

LENOX — When was the last time you read of a hockey player saying he must have committed a penalty, or saying "thank you" to game officials after leaving the penalty box?

It happens, in the Special Olympics. The annual Massachusetts Winter Games competition began yesterday at several sites in Southern Berkshire County. There are finals today in alpine and cross country skiing, figure and speed skating and floor hockey, with medals to be given out, just like at Calgary.

Some 300 mentally and physically handicapped athletes age 8 and older from throughout the commonwealth have descended on the Berkshires for a competition that has been hosted by the Eastover Resort in Lenox since 1982. Eastover also hosts some of the events, while others take place at Butternut Basin Ski Area in Great Barrington, Lenox and Lee high schools and Berkshire School in Sheffield.

Skater winning for dad

The speed skating is being held at Berkshire School, where a poignant story is developing. Bill Corrieri Jr. from the South Middlesex County team is the top qualifyer in the 100- and 300-meter races. His late father, Bill Corrieri, was the first training coordinator for the Special Olympics, and this year's Winter Games are dedicated to his memory.

Matt Merritt of Lenox has been volunteering his services in the floor hockey competition for three years. Merritt is in charge of the Lenox High site where the masters floor hockey is played. To him, watching these athletes is just like watching the U.S. or Canadian Olympic hockey teams.

"The level of competition is intense, it really is," Merritt said while watching Hampden County play the Berkshire County representatives from the High Point School in Lenox. "It's also pretty decent. You don't see any fighting, you don't see any arguing. They want to play, they want to win and have fun."

At Wednesday night's opening ceremonies at Eastover, the Special Olympians recited their oath, which says: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Being brave is the story of the High Point floor hockey team, which has very little experience in the sport.

"We started in December getting the team ready. The kids have come a long way, and they have worked awfully hard," said coach John Wilk, the director of physical education at High Point. "They had never done anything like this."

Sylvester Hendricks of New York City is one of the members of the High Point team. The 12-year-old didn't have the look of someone whose team just dropped a 7-3 decision. The youngster wanted to play some more, because he thought his team was getting better.

"It was fun," Hendricks said with glee. "We played hard, we played strong and we could have won. We're not losers, we're winners."

The floor hockey produced the first medals of the competition. Dorchester from Greater Boston earned the gold medal in the senior division. Lawrence of Essex County took the silver, and the Hec-Hawks from Hampshire County claimed the bronze.

At the alpine skiing venues, Olympics' director of administration John Wall said things went very smoothly. Only one person fell during the entire alpine trials.

"It was a super day on the downhill, slalom and giant slalom," Wall said enthusiastically. "There were a lot of good qualifying times, and the coaches did really well in preparing their athletes."

The athletes are well-schooled in their particular events, and High Point coach Wilk said they just want to participate.

"They probably come from some backgrounds that are so poor, they very seldom get the opportunity to really have positive experiences and an opportunity to create a positive self-image," Wilk explained. "That's what's great about this for the kids, because the final score doesn't mean anything. Coming out here, working hard and doing the best they can, they can feel good about themselves. All athletes, no matter what, need that type of experience."

Most of the Special Olympians don't have the Brian Boitanos or Pirmin Zubriggens as sports heroes and models. The point of Special Olympics is for the athletes to compete and have fun.

High Point's Hendricks said he doesn't watch any hockey on television, but he is a sports fan. Who's his favorite athlete, Larry Bird?

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How about Magic Johnson?

"Yeah, Magic Johnson," he added with a 100-watt smile that even the Lakers' Magic Man couldn't outdo.

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Special Olympics Massachusetts

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Joel Librizzi

Learning to skate

12-28-88

Sara Robinson of the Pittsfield Figure Skating Club helps Elizabeth Rogers, 6, one of 80 youngsters who came to the Pittsfield Boys' Club yesterday for a school vacation learn-to-skate program. The four-day program is sponsored by Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club and Department of Parks and Recreation.

Skating program has vacancies

12-12-88

PITTSFIELD — Vacancies exist in the learn-to-skate program scheduled for school vacation in December. The four-day program will be held at the Pittsfield Boys' Club Tuesday, Dec. 27, through Friday, Dec. 30, from 11:45 to 12:45.

The cost of the program, which is sponsored by the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club and the Department of Parks and Recreation, is $8.

A local figure skating professional assisted by members of the Pittsfield Figure Skating Club and senior members of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club will conduct the sessions.

Registrations may be made by going to the Department of Parks and Recreation office in the Springside House, 874 North St., Monday through Friday from 9 to 5.

Winter Sports Committee plans annual banquet

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. of the Department of Recreation will have its annual banquet on March 12 at Giovanni's Restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Garner are chairmen.

Cocktails will be from 6:30 to 7 with dinner at 7. Reservations may be made by Monday with the Garners, at 92 Holmes Road. Any volunteer who assisted with any of the various Winter Carnival events is invited to attend.

3/6/88

Pittsfield minor leagues schedule registration

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL: The Minor League of Pittsfield baseball program will hold registration for the coming season Saturday and Monday at four sites. All registration sessions will run Saturday from 10 to noon and Monday from 6 to 8 p.m.

The program, for youngsters ages 8-12, is divided into three leagues: the North, South and West. Players in the South League should register at the Holmes Road fire station; West League players should sign up at the West Housatonic Street fire station, and players in the North League should register at the fire station on Pecks Road.

Crusaders, will speak. 4/1/88
The event is open to the public.

* * * *

MINOR LEAGUE: The Pittsfield South Minor League baseball program urgently needs volunteers to manage and coach its teams this season. There are 92 players divided into seven teams. The league plays at Egremont School Monday through Friday during the season.

If enough volunteers are found, the league could start May 16 and continue through July 15. The shortage of volunteers could force cancellation of the league this season.

Interested volunteers should contact Ken Dowsett, 381 Williams St.

* * 5/6/88

Area Sports

Don Murphy scholarship fund set up; DiNicola wins N.Y. speed skating title

MURPHY SCHOLARSHIP: A scholarship fund has been founded in memory of Don Murphy, the longtime Pittsfield High hockey coach and Taconic baseball coach who died Monday.

The fund, established by the Murphy family, will be known as the Donald Murphy memorial scholarship fund. Donations may be sent to the Pittsfield Co-operative Bank in care of Charles Hooker.

Members of the Murphy family and a five-member committee will decide the criteria for the awarding of the scholarship funds.

* * * *

SPEED SKATING: Mary Lou DiNicola of Pittsfield captured the senior women's B Division title at the Eastern Seaboard Outdoor Speed Skating Championships last weekend in Lake Placid, N.Y., the region's first major outdoor event of the season.

DiNicola, a member of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, had first-place finishes in the 500-, 800-, 1,000- and 1,500-meter races and second in another 1,500-meter race. She was also first overall among women in the Lake Placid International Skating Marathon, winning the 5-kilometer event in 10 minutes, 14 seconds.

Alex Goguen of the Pittsfield club competed in the masters men's division, taking second in the 3,000-meter and fourth in the 500, 800 and 1,000 and a second 1,500. In the marathon, he finished first in the men's 60-and-over race, clocking 10 kilometers in 20 minutes, 14 seconds.

Also competing in the two-day meet were Pittsfield club skaters Arthur Ruff and Jeff Parkman. In the marathon racing, Parkman was third in the 5-kilometer in 10:15 and Ruff was fourth in 10:17. 1/6/88

Area Sports

Speed skating set at Onota this weekend; Brodie will host Telemark Day Sunday

1/14/88

SPEED SKATING: The Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating championships are scheduled for this weekend on Onota Lake at the Controy Pavilion.

Races are scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday, as 100 speed skaters from throughout the Northeast are expected to participate.

The championships are part of the 43rd annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

* * * *

SPEED SKATING: Mary Lou DiNicola and Missey Vilot of the Pittsfield Parks Speedskating Club each won four events Saturday in the 55th annual Eastern States Outdoor Speedskating Championships in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Competing in the senior A women's division, DiNicola won the 500-, 800-, 1,000- and 1,500-meter races. A day later, however, DiNicola's season came to a premature end when she fractured an ankle at Onota Lake preparing for the North American championships.

Vilot won the juvenile girls' division with victories in the 300-, 400-, 600- and 800-meter events. Ellen Halstead was second in the same four events.

Alex Goguen of the local club won the 500, 800 and 1,000 races in the Master's men's division and finished second in the 1,500 meters. He was the overall winner in the division. Competing in the same category, Arthur Ruff won the 1,500 and was runner-up in the 500, 800 and 1,000.

In the novice competition, Jennifer Ramsey won the 100, 300 and 400 races. In the senior men's B Division, Bill Farry was second in the 500 and 1,000 and third in the 800. 2/2/88

* * * *

SPEED SKATING: Alex Goguen of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club took a fourth-place medal in the 1,500-meter race at the North American Speedskating Championships last weekend at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Goguen was competing in the men's master class. He also qualified for the finals in the 500- and 800-meter events.

The meet included 134 skaters from throughout the United States and Canada.

Also from Pittsfield, Arthur Ruff qualified for the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 masters finals and Carl Peaslee served as chief judge, with Gail and Fred Garner judging and Mary Smith and Pat Peaslee serving as scorekeepers.

* * * *

handled the oval in 1:26.40, driving in the rear-wheel-drive, studded tire division.

Pittsfield racers Don Wechter and George Goodrich also picked up wins Sunday. Wechter won the four-wheel-drive, no studs division (1:45.19), while Goodrich finished first in the dune buggy group (1:32.48).

Other Sunday winners were Gerard Michney of Austerlitz, N.Y., finishing first in the rear-wheel-drive, studded tire division (1:48.07), and Chris Havas of Hopewell Junction , N.Y., who won the rear drive, screws in tires for studs division (1:32.48). 2/10/88

* * * *

SPEED SKATING: There will be races for novices as part of this weekend's Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships on Onota Lake. The races, part of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival, begin at 1 p.m. tomorrow and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Children 15 years old and younger from Pittsfield and abutting towns may enter the novice races Sunday. There will be two races each in age divisions under 8, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15. Ribbons will be awarded to the top three finishers in each group. Registration will begin at the Controy Pavilion at 10:30 a.m. There is a $1 entry fee, and competitors may use any type of skates.

* * * * 1/15/88

Skating instruction offered for children

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation, will conduct a learn-to-skate program for local schoolchildren during the Christmas school vacation.

Registration for the program will be Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. at Springside House, 874 North St. Registration fee for the four-day program will be $8. Instruction will be directed by a local figure-skating professional, assisted by senior members of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, according to organizers.

The sessions will be from 11:45 to 12:45 at the Pittsfield Boys' Club Tuesday, Dec. 27, through Friday, Dec. 30. Children must have their own skates.

If the class is not filled at the Wednesday registration session, registrations may be made by telephoning Patricia Peaslee, at her 116 Shore Drive home, on Thursday. 12-2-88

SPEED SKATING: Carl E. Peaslee of Pittsfield has been elected president of the Northern New York Skating Association. Peaslee, who was elected at a recent meeting in Albany, previously served as president in 1967 and 1968.

Peaslee, who lives at 116 Shore Drive, appointed several members of the Pittsfield Speed Skating Club as association officers. They include his wife, Patricia, as secretary-treasurer and hall of fame chairman; Mary T. Smith, chairman of legislation; Mary Lou DiNicola, liaison with skaters; and William Farry, novice development committee. 5/13/88

SPEED SKATING: The Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club has scheduled an organizational meeting tonight at 7:30 at Springside House, 874 North St. All interested skaters, regardless of age, are welcome.

The club will begin its indoor practice sessions at the Boys' Club Oct. 11 from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. and Oct. 16 fromk 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The club is seeking former speedskaters who might be interested in assisting with a novice program. The club is also seeking used speedskates and sharpening tools. Further information may be obtained from club secretary Patricia Peaslee of 116 Shore Drive.

* * 10-4-88

SPEED SKATING: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rink in North Adams will host the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships Sunday, the final event of the 43rd annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

The races begin at noon, featuring skaters from the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club, other parts of Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Connecticut, according to event chairman Patricia Peaslee.

Race distances will range from 100 meters for pee wees to 3,000 meters for senior men. Kristen Talbot, who competed in the 1988 Olympics, won the senior women's title at last year's Pittsfield indoor event. U.S. silver medalist Eric Flaim of Pembroke has also been a past participant. 2/26/88

* *

59.

Area Sports

Terry Holland 4th in World Cup skeleton competition

SKELETON: Terry Holland of Pittsfield finished fourth yesterday in the first of three World Cup skeleton races in St. Moritz, Switzerland, the best finish ever by an American in the event.

Holland, who was second in the first heat, went slightly out of control on the second run and finished with a combined time of 2 minutes, 25.53 seconds. The winner was Anreas Schmid of Austria in 2:24.21, with Alain Wicki of Switzerland second in 2:24.52 and Austria's Christian Aver third in 2:25.27.

Holland's Berkshire cohort, Orvie Garrett of Washington, was 13th in the first heat, but crashed in the second and finished 30th in the 34-man field.

The other World Cup races will be at Konigssee and Winterberg, both in West Germany.

* * * *

CITY SKI MEET: Ryan O'Donnell posted the fastest time of the day, 19.64 seconds, to head a field of 35 youngsters who competed yesterday in the annual Pittsfield City Ski Meet at Bousquet Ski Area. The event is sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee.

Top finishers are as follows:

GIRLS

8 and under — 1. Adelaide Egan, 25.36; 2. Micaela Broderick, 34.36; 3. Bethany Rossi, 36.89.

9-11 — 1. Nicole Douillet, 23.00; 2. Lynn Giammattei, 24.45; 3. Michele Spina, 25.23.

12-14 — 1. Lisa DeVergilio, 27.47.

15-17 — 1. Becky Rotti, 22.25.

BOYS

8-under — 1. Matt Broderick, 22.26; 2. Trip Cave, 27.72; 3. Ben Cella, 28.41.

9-11 — 1. Jeff Giammattei, 22.01; 2. Brad Stewart, 22.46; 3. Paul Dodds, 22.95.

12-14 — 1. Greg Knight, 20.55; 2. Christian Anthony, 20.79; 3. Chris Tullock, 21.79.

15-17 — 1. Jim Deegan, 22.27.

Eastern Ski League

9-11, boys — 1. Gerry Broderick, 20.74.

12-14, boys — 1. Ryan O'Donnell, 19.64; 2. Justin Klein, 21.09.

Susan Plageman

LEADER OF THE PACK is Pittsfield's Mary Lou DiNicola, left center, who charges to victory in the women's 1,000-meter race at yesterday's Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships at Onota Lake.

1.17.1988 B.3

Small turnout doesn't foil skaters

Berkshire speed skating event cut to one enjoyable day

By Howard Herman

PITTSFIELD — "I never heard of skating on your knees," said 8-year-old Jimmy Farry of Pittsfield, after his flashy finish in the 200-meter pony final at yesterday's Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships at Onota Lake.

Farry crossed the line on his knees, having hit the ice some five yards before the finish. Gamely, he slid across the finish line, actually using some skating motions to keep his momentum.

When asked how it felt out on the 400-meter Burbank Park oval, first-year competitor Farry said, "Not very good when I fell."

Farry is one of 18 members from the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club who took part in yesterday's racing. In all, 50 racers were entered in the 37-event card. The number was down from the usual 90 to 100 racers, because of another event being held at the same time.

Conflicting event in Canada

"There is a meet in Ottawa, Canada, today, and that's where a lot of the skaters have gone," explained race organizer Patricia Peaslee. The low number of skaters entered forced the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee to turn a two-day event into one day of racing, canceling today's program. In addition to the Pittsfield skaters, racers from Albany and Boston attended yesterday's meet.

With the smaller number of skaters, the championships took on a less tense atmosphere. As racers participated in heats and finals, some others skated around the outside of the track away from the course.

There were some young racers who wouldn't get off the oval after their race was completed. The four skaters in the novice pee wee category were in a heated 50-meter final when they kept right on skating past the finish line. The course was one-quarter of the oval, but the racers ended up skating all the way around to the cheers of the crowd.

"It's better than some of the seniors who finish at the wrong line," said a smiling racing judge Nancy Muller, who hails from upstate New York.

After nearly a week of sub-zero temperatures, the conditions at Onota yesterday were nearly perfect for mid-January. It was sunny and temperatures were in the low 30s, and that made the racers feel good.

"This is a fun place to race. It's great to race outside," said Jesa Danova of Boston, a skater who hasn't been racing for very long.

"It's a day like today that reinforces why I do this. I've only been skating for 2½ years. I was never involved in sports before this. I was a high school couch potato, even when I was 30," she laughed.

Victory for DiNicola

At one point yesterday, all eyes were focused on the oval for the senior women's 3,000-meter final, in which Pittsfield skater Mary Lou DiNicola was a favorite.

The race included three master men racers, who didn't have a race of their own. The trio weren't competing as much as working out. One of the men, however, ended up playing an important role in the race.

Pittsfield's Alex Goguen led for most of the seven-lap race, allowing DiNicola to draft behind him, cutting the wind resistance. Right behind DiNicola was Syracuse, N.Y. racer Sarah Fitzpatrick, who was drafting DiNicola.

On the bell lap, the men got out of the way, and the women took over. DiNicola took the lead, but Fitzpatrick stayed on her shoulder. As they came around the far turn and headed home, it looked as if the local skater might not finish first. But with the cheers of the Pittsfield speed skaters, DiNicola held off Fitzpatrick to win the race.

"I thought it was a guy behind me," DiNicola said after the race. "But when I saw the black-and-red stripes [of Fitzpatrick's race togs] I knew it wasn't. She stayed right up there with me; it was a good race."

The close race had to please the members of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee, who worked the ice so that yesterday's racing would go off without a hitch.

"They've been working the last week and a half preparing this course," said Winter Sports Committee chairman David Melle. "At 8 this morning, volunteers were out here to clean the racecourse."

The future of speed skating

A number of the skaters who participated yesterday were youngsters no older than 12. For many, the meet marked the beginning of what might be an amateur speed skating career. The younger racers clearly enjoyed themselves — even those who fell down at full speed and had to get up to finish the race.

One girl was overheard to ask her mother if she could get one of the skintight, aerodynamic racing suits the older racers wore. Mom said that if she stuck with racing another year, the suit might just be hers.

DiNicola heads area champs

DiNicola won five individual titles to claim the Senior Women A class championship. She finished first in the 500, 800, 1,000, 1,500 and 3,000-meter finals to earn her overall championship.

She was one of eight members of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club to earn class championships. Those champions included Missey Vilot in Juvenile girls, Matt Dartford in Pony boys, Jennifer Bernardo in Pee Wee girls, Joey Hayes in Pee Wee Novice boys, Jennifer Ramsey for the Pee Wee Novice girls and, in the Novice Pony categories, Jimmy Farry and Rachel O'Connell.

Paul Marchese of Stony Creek, N.Y., won the 5,000-meter Exchange Club Francis E. Douglas Memorial race, finishing in 9:48.57. He also was the Senior Men A division class champion.

Marchese, who had been used to artificial outdoor ice surfaces, said he had to adjust to the Onota Lake oval.

"It's different than on an artificial course. On natural ice, the course tends to be wavy and cracked, so you have to pay a little more attention when you skate," he said.

Marchese was a five-time winner yesterday.

YESTERDAY'S PITTSFIELD WINNERS

50 meters

Novice Pee Wees — Joey Hayes, boys; Jennifer Ramsey, girls. Novice Ponies — Rory Hayes, boys; Rachel O'Connell, girls.

100-meters

Pony boys — Matt Dartford, (14.92); Novice Pee Wees — Joey Hayes, boys; Jennifer Ramsey, girls. Novice Ponies — Rory Hayes, boys; Rachel O'Connell, girls.

200 meters

Pony boys — Matt Dartford, (30:57). Novice Pee Wees — Joey Hayes, boys; Jennifer Ramsey, girls. Novice Ponies — Rory Hayes, boys; Rachel O'Connell, girls. Pee Wee girls — Jennifer Bernardo, (46.14)

1/17/88

Speed skating
Continued on Page B12

Speed skating

Continued from Page B3

300 meters

Pony boys — Matt Dartford, (46:12).

400 meters

Pony boys — Matt Dartford; Pee Wee girls — Jennifer Bernardo.

500 meters

Senior Women A — Mary Lou DiNicola, (55.54). Juvenile Women — Missey Vilot, (1:09.37)

800 meters

Senior Women A — Mary Lou DiNicola, (1:33.47); Juvenile Women — Missey Vilot, (2:01.10).

1,000 meters

Senior Women A — Mary Lou DiNicola, (2:41.42); Juvenile Women — Missey Vilot, (2:33.16).

1,500 meters

Senior Women A — Mary Lou DiNicola, (3:04.64.

3,000 meters

Senior Women A — Mary Lou DiNicola, (6:15.53).

Exchange Club

5,000 meter, Francis E. Douglas Memorial

1. Paul Marchese, Stony Creek, N.Y. (9:48.57); 2. Chris Malek, Lake Peekskill, N.Y.; 3. Vince Gagliano, Bronx, N.Y.; 4. Fran Ouelette, Spencer.

1/17/88

SPEEDSKATING: Alex Goguen of Pittsfield won four gold medals this weekend in the Senior Olympic Speed-skating championships at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Goguen, 67, competing in the age 65 to 69 category won the 300, 500, 1,000 and 1,500 meter events. Arthur Ruff of Pittsfield, Goguen's teammate on the Pittsfield Parks Department Speedskating Club, won silver medals in the 500, 1,000, 1,500 and 3,000 meter events in the age 40 to 44 class. Ruff is 41.

1/25/88

61

Susan Plageman

On your mark, get set . . .

11/17/88

Skaters launch themselves from the starting line during yesterday's Berkshire Hills Outdoor Speed Skating Championships at Onota Lake. Story, other photo Page B3.

SPEED-SKATING: Several members of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club won medals in the Green Mountain short-track championship held Sunday in Burlington, Vt.

In the senior women's "B" division, Mary Lou DiNicola finished second overall. In the pony girl's division, Mary Parkman finished second overall. Arthur Ruff finished second and Jeff Parkman third in the master men's class, while Andy Parkman placed second in the midget boys' category.
lington, Vt.

The club holds indoor practice sessions at the Boys' Club on Tuesdays from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. and Sundays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

11-16-88

SPEED SKATING: President Vill Farry, vice president Mary Lou DiNicola and secretary-treasurer Patricia Peaslee have been re-elected as officers of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club for the 1988-89 season. All club members are requested to return club equipment to the Department of Recreation office, 874 North St., by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

3/17/88

Area Sp
Goguen w
Boys' Clu

SPEED SKATING: Ale
of the Pittsfield Parks Sp
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division at the Lake Plac
Speed Skating Champions
weekend in Lake Placi
Goguen won the 1,500-m
3,000-meter races and was
the 500-meter. Masters t
Arthur Ruff of Pittsfield
in the 3,000 and fourth in th
In the senior men's B
John Purcell was third ove
third's in the 500, 1,500 and
Jeff Parkman was fourt
3,000.
In the juvenile class, El
tead was third overall in
division with thirds in the
and 800 and Richard Ro
third in the boys' 300, 500 ar

Area Sports

Goguen wins N.Y. speed skating title; Boys' Club 'Wrestlemania' TV called off

SPEED SKATING: Alex Goguen of the Pittsfield Parks Speed Skating Club won the masters men's division at the Lake Placid Indoor Speed Skating Championships last weekend in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Goguen won the 1,500-meter and 3,000-meter races and was second in the 500-meter. Masters teammate Arthur Ruff of Pittsfield was third in the 3,000 and fourth in the 1,500.

In the senior men's B division, John Purcell was third overall with thirds in the 500, 1,500 and 3,000 and Jeff Parkman was fourth in the 3,000.

In the juvenile class, Ellen Halstead was third overall in the girls' division with thirds in the 300, 500 and 800 and Richard Rouse was third in the boys' 300, 500 and 1,000.

eight for St. Francis.

In other games, Chris Mastrodicasa scored 15 as Mount Carmel won 46-37 over St. Charles, Clint Pyrzanowski scored 14 as St. Mark's won 49-30 over St. Joseph's, John Goodnow scored 16 as St. Joseph's won 45-29 over Sacred Heart and Adam Kirby scored 10 as St. Teresa won 50-31 over St. Mary's.

In losing causes, Mike McHugh scored seven for St. Charles, Goodnow nine for St. Joseph's, Kevin O'Donnell six for Sacred Heart and Jeff Murray 12 for St. Mary's.

3/9/88

CYC JUNIORS: St. Teresa's and Mount Carmel each posted two recent CYC Junior League basketball wins.

Paul Dowd scored 26 points and Randy Bonito 19 in St. Teresa's 67-58 win over St. Joseph's, and Dowd and Bonito each had 20 in a 62-58 win over St. Francis. Matt Mickle had 40 for St. Joseph's and Dave Donovan 23 for St. Francis.

Richie Ott and Marc McNeice had the hot hand for Mount Carmel. Each scored 17 in a 59-40 win over St. Francis Ott scored 23 and McNeice 12 in a 67-45 win over St. Joseph's. Travis Borden had 12 for St. Francis and Mike Woitkoski 28 for St. Joseph's.

In other action, Jason Virgilio scored 32 and Mike Gamberoni 10 as St. Mark's won 56-49 over St. Charles and Jim Keefner netted 23 and Shane Steinman 15 as St. Mary's downed Sacred Heart 62-55. Keith Poopor scored 21 for St. Charles and Jeff Russo 27 for Sacred Heart.

62.

Lee girl wins three events at indoor speed skating meet

SPORTS

NORTH ADAMS — Missey Vilot of Lee won three races yesterday to claim the Juvenile girls' class championship at the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating championships held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Rink in North Adams.

Vilot won the 800-, 500- and 300-meter races to take the class championship.

Pat Wentland of Scituate was the Senior Men A division champion, winning the 800 and 1500 meter races on the short track in the rink. The Senior Men B championship went to Robbie Greene of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., who swept the four events in his class: the 500, 800, 1500 and 3000 meter races.

Mary Murphy, also of Saratoga Springs, was the Senior Women A champion, with wins in the 500, 800, 1000 and 1500 meter races. The Senior Women B titlist was Ginny LaFreniere of Lowell, who won all but the 1500 meter race.

Masters' Division

In the Masters' Division, the men's award went to Ed Lang of Arlington for his win in the 1500 meter and seconds in the 800 and 500 meter races. Leslie Moore of Flushing, N.Y., was the women's champ, thanks to wins in the 500 and 800 meter races.

Other class champions included James Episcopia of Staten Island, N.Y., in the Junior Boys; Todd Porter of Saratoga Springs, Juvenile Boys; Mike Gallant of Saugus in the Midget Boys, and James Cooley of Saratoga Springs, Pee Wee Boys.

Girls' champions included Diana Kubler of Staten Island in the Intermediate Girls, Saratoga Springs' Jessica Riley in the Midget Girls and Kristen Brophy in the Pony Girls, and Penelope Lange of Arlington in the Pee Wee girls.

Race results:

Master Women 800 meters — 1. Leslie Moore, Flushing N.Y. (1:54.82; 2. Ellie Reddington, S. Burlington, Vt. **Intermediate Women 800** — 1. Diana Kubler, Staten Island, N.Y. (1:46.25). **Senior Women A 1000** — 1. Mary Brophy, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (2:03.36); 2. Jody Whitsell, N. Haledon, N.J.; 3. Lexie Riley, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. **Senior Women B 1000** — 1. Ginny LaFreniere, Lowell (2:14.41); 2. Jody Kosinski, Newton; 3. Liz Hirschorn, Connelly, N.Y.

Junior men 500 — 1. James Episcopia, Staten Island, N.Y. (1:12.84). **Juvenile men 500** — 1. Todd Porter, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (53.68); 2. Kyle Brown, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; 3. Ryan Lindstedt, Lake Shawnee, N.J. **Juvenile women 500** — 1. Missey Vilot, Lee (1:08.09); 2. Nancy Kubler, Staten Island, N.Y.; 3. Robin Canfield, Pittsfield. **Senior Men A 1500** — 1. Pat Wentland, Scituate (2:52.27); 2. David Tamburrino, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; 3. Paul Marchese, Stony Creek, N.Y.

Senior Men B 1500 — 1. Robbie Green, Gansevoort, N.Y. (3:01.49); 2. Brian Pierce, Bath, Maine; 3. Joe LaFreniere, Lowell. **Master Men 1500** — 1. Ed Lang, Arlington (3:18.20); 2. Alex Gougen, Pittsfield; 3. Ken Altuchoff, Bronx, N.Y.

Pony Men 300 — 1. Thomas Samuels, Newton (46.49); 2. Michael Tamburrino, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; 3. Joshua Erwin, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. **Pony Women 300** — 1. Kristen Brophy, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (48.98); 2. Erin Porter, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; 3. Mary Gallant, Saugus. **Pee Wee Men 200** — 1. James Cooley, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (52.05); 2. Jon Tamburrino, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; 3. Gus Canfield, Pittsfield. **Pee Wee Women 200** — 1. Janine DeCesare. Staten Island, N.Y. (36.66); 2. Penelope Lang, Arlington; 3. Mary Parkman, Williamstown.

Master Women 500 — 1. Moore (1:13.16); 2. Reddington. **Intermediate women 500** — 1. Kubler (1:04.39). **Senior Women A 500** — 1. Brophy (56.53); 2. Whitsell; 3. Riley. **Junior Men 300** — Episcopia (43.10). **Juvenile Men 300** — 1. Porter (36.14); 2. Brown; 3. Lindstedt. **Senior Women B 500** — 1. La Freniere (1:04.97); 2. Kosinski; 3. Moira Ingel, Charlotte, Vt. **Senior Men A 500** — 1. Paul Marchese, Stony Creek, N.Y. (50.10); 2. Wentland; 3. Peter Askin, Larchmont, N.Y.

Master Men 500 — 1. Chris Malek, Lake Peekskill, N.Y. (57.75); 2. Lang; 3. Goguen. **Senior Men B 500** — 1. Greene (56.73); 2. Fred Cole, Greenfield Ctr., N.Y.; 3. Bruce Hampton, Harvard. **Midget Women 300** — 1. Riley (41.61); 2. Lang; 3. Northup. **Midget Men 300** — 1. Gallant (55.60). **Juvenile Women 300** — 1. Vilot (44.37); 2. Kubler; 3. Ellen Halstead, Pittsfield. **Pee Wee Men 100** — 1. Cooley (27.91); 2. Tamburrino; 3. Canfield.

Pony Women 200 — 1. Brophy (32.02); 2. Porter; 3. Gallant. **Pony Men 200** — 1. Samuels (31.35); 2. Tamburrino; 3. Erwin. **Pee Wee Women 100** — 1. Lang (19.94); 2. DeCesare; 3. Parkman. **Juvenile Women 800** — 1. Vilot (1:53.23); 2. Kubler; 3. Canfield. **Junior Men 800** — 1. Episcopia (1:42.25). **Juvenile Men 800** — 1. Porter (1:31.47); 2. Lindstedt; 3. Brown. **Senior Women B 800** — 1. LaFreniere (1:40.42); 2. Hirschorn; 3. Ingel. **Senior Women A 800** — 1. Brophy (1:31.87); 2. Whitsell; 3. Riley.

Senior Men B 800 — 1. Wentland (1:23.93); 2. Marchese; 3. Askin. **Master Men 800** — 1. Malek (1:35.25); 2. Lang; 3. Goguen. **Pony Men 400** — 1. Samuels (1:03.13); 2. Tamburrino; 3. Johnny Mattoon, Pittsfield. **Pee Wee Men 300** — 1. Cooley (1:27.34); 2. Tamburrino; 3. Canfield. **Pony Women 400** — 1. Brophy (1:07.35); 2. Porter; 3. Rebecca O'Connell, Pittsfield. **Midget Women 600** — 1. Riley (1:25.60); 2. Lang; 3. Northup.

Midget Men 600 — 1. Gallant (1:43.63). **Pee Wee Women 300** — 1. Lang (58.56); 2. Parkman; 3. DeCesare. **Senior Men A 3000** — 1. Wentland (6:12.22); 2. Marchese; 3. Tamburrino. **Senior Men B 3000** — 1. Greene (6:35.64); 2. Pierce; 3. Cole. **Senior Women A 1500** — 1. Brophy (3:13.11); 2. Riley; 3. Whitsell. **Senior Women B 1500** — 1. Kosinski (3:24.56); 2. LaFreniere; 3. Ingel. **Master Women 1500** — 1. Reddington (3:54.95); 2. Moore. **Intermediate Women 1500** — 1. Kubler (3:25.52).

2/29/88

Photos by Susan Plageman

A day for the kids

The weather was perfect yesterday as 35 youngsters turned out for the annual Pittsfield City Ski Meet at Bousquet Ski Area. In photo above, Bethany Rossi gingerly negotiates the giant slalom course en route to a third-place finish in the girls' 8-and-under age group. In photo at right, all the racers listen to their instructions at the starting gate. The annual event was sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee.

Leslie Harrison

DIGGING IN is David Tamburrino of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., who tries to hold off the pack in a heat of the Senior Men's 800 meter race at the Pittsfield Indoor Speed Skating Championships. He finished third in the heat to Pat Wentland.

Carnival group to meet weekly

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House to discuss plans for the 43rd annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival. The session will be the first of weekly meetings during January and February.

Events to be held this month and next include the queen's contest and the selling of Winter Carnival buttons by the queen contestants from Jan. 15 through Feb. 9.

The Berkshire Hills outdoor speed skating championships will be Jan. 16 and 17 at Burbank Park on Onota Lake, toboggan races Jan. 24 at Osceola Park and the city ski meet Jan. 30 at a location not yet determined.

Family Day will be Jan. 31 at Burbank Park. This event will include sliding and skating races, snow sculpture contest, ice fishing derby, golf on ice tournament, cross country ski race. 1/4/88

* * * *

AUTO ICE TRIALS: Onota Lake will be the site of automobile racing this weekend as the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee and the Berkshire Motor Sports Club sponsor the 28th annual ice trials as part of the 43rd annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

The competition, open to all types of automobiles, will be held Saturday and Sunday. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. with the first run starting at 11. Event headquarters is the Controy Pavilion at Onota Lake, and access must be made at the Lakeway Drive entrance to Burbank Park off Valentine Road.

Any type of four-wheel drive vehicle is eligible. Jeeps and dune buggies must have roll bars or hard tops. Helmets and seat belts must be worn.

Trophies will be awarded the top three finishers in each class. Entry forms are available at the Department of Recreation office, 874 North St., or by contacting event chairman Clark W. Nicholls.

* * * 2/2/88

Queen contest applications available

PITTSFIELD — The deadline for applications for the Winter Carnival queen contest has been extended until Friday. Applications may be obtained at the Department of Recreation or from Mrs. Philip Delmolino of 170 Maple Grove Drive.

The queen will be crowned at the annual queen's coronation ball on Feb. 19 at Itam Lodge. 1/5/88

Dates are changed for Queen Contest

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. voted to move the start of the Winter Carnival Queen's Contest up one week due to the lack of applicants. The contest will now begin Jan. 22 with a kick-off dinner at the Stanley Club. The contest will close Feb. 15 at 5 p.m.

Applications are available at the Department of Recreation Office, 874 North St. or by calling contest chairmen, Mrs. Philip Delmolino of 170 Maple Grove Drive or Mrs. Carl Peaslee of 116 Shore Drive.

The contest is open to single girls ages 17 through 21 who live, attend school or work in Pittsfield or live in adjoining towns.

Applications are to be returned by 5 p.m. on Wednesday. 1/9/88

CORRECTIONS

Placing first in the children's sled races for girls age 6 and under during Sunday's Family Day of the 1988 Winter Carnival was Carla Swezey. Family Day chairman was Kathy Pezze. The names of both were given incorrectly in yesterday's Eagle. 2/2/88

CITY SKI MEET: The Pittsfield City Ski Meet, an event of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival, has been scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. at Bousquet Ski Area.

Novice racers are encouraged to compete, and there will be two divisions: one for Eastern competitors and one for non-Eastern skiers. Each skier will get one run down the course. Prizes will be awarded to the top three boys and girls in age groups 8 and under, 9-11, 12-14 and 15-17.

Skiers must have parental consent to compete, and entry forms may be obtained at the Department of Recreation office (874 North St.) and at Bousquet, both in advance and the day of the race. Free hot chocolate will be given to all competitors. Mrs. David Melle is event chairman. 1/27/88

Toboggan races are postponed

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee said yesterday that the toboggan races scheduled for Sunday at Osceola Park have been postponed until Sunday, Feb. 14.

The comittee will meet tonight at 7:30 at the Springside House to make final plans for the annual queen contest, which begins Friday evening. 1/20/88

* * * *

TOBOGGAN RACES: The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee's Winter Carnival toboggan races, which have been twice postponed, are scheduled to take place tomorrow from noon to 3:30 at Osceola Park.

The event, open to residents of Pittsfield and surrounding towns, features races for two-, three- and four-person toboggans. Only wooden, U-shaped toboggans will be permitted. Entry forms are available at Springside House, 874 North St., and will be available at the park tomorrow from 11 to noon. There is no entry fee, but entrants under 18 must have a parent's signature on the entry form. 2/20/88

* * *

Ice races, coaching honors part of busy weekend slate

Auto ice racing, a major swim meet and two ceremonies honoring coaches will join high school basketball, hockey, wrestling and skiing on this weekend's busy Berkshire County sports schedule.

Two longtime Pittsfield High coaches will be honored in ceremonies tonight.

At the Pittsfield Boys' Club, a banner will be unveiled honoring the late Don Murphy, the longtime Pittsfield High hockey coach who died last month. The banner, which will be presented to his family between games of a high school double-header, will be permanently displayed at the rink.

In Hyannis tonight, former longtime Pittsfield High baseball coach George "Buddy" Pellerin will be inducted into the Massachusetts Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

The auto ice trials, an event of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival, are scheduled today and tomorrow at Onota Lake near the Controy Pavilion. Registration will be at 9:30 each day and competition begins at 11.

Highlighting today's high school action will be a wrestling match between unbeaten Monument Mountain and second-place Mount Everett in Great Barrington at 1:30. The Spartans can clinch a tie for the league title with a win. In other 1:30 matches, it's St. Joseph's at Drury, Pittsfield at Taconic and Mount Greylock at DeSisto.

In hockey tonight at the Boys' Club, PHS hosts Lee at 7 and St. Joseph's hosts Taconic at 9. Drury also hosts Mount Greylock at 7 at the Vietnam Veterans Rink in North Adams.

All Berkshire County high school cross country ski teams will also compete today in a meet beginning at 9:30 at the Brodie Mountain cross country center on Route 7 in Lanesboro.

There will also be three girls' basketball games today, rescheduled from Thursday, when the snow storm forced their cancellation. The schedule includes Monument Mountain at St. Joseph's (2 p.m. jayvee start), Mount Greylock at Lenox (4 p.m. jayvee start) and Taconic at Mount Everett (6 p.m. jayvee start).

Tomorrow, the Pittsfield YMCA will host the annual Valentine Invitational Swim Meet for all swimmers aged 18 and under. The competition begins at 9. 2/6/88

Sheryl Garner-Gorton heads queen's coronation ball

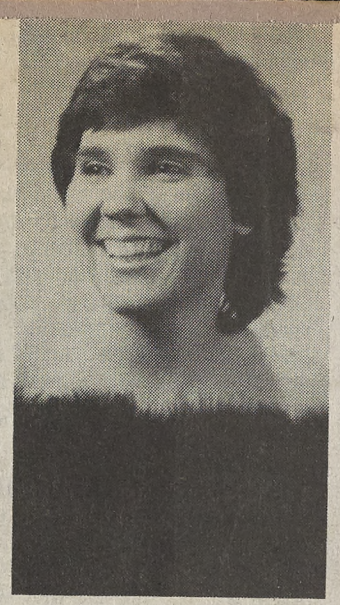
PITTSFIELD — Ms. Sheryl Garner-Gorton today was named chairman of the annual queen's coronation ball on Feb. 19 at Itam Lodge. Music for dancing will be by Celebration from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The ball is the culmination of the annual queen's contest sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. of the Department of Recreation. Queen contestants who have sold their quota of 1,000 Winter Carnival buttons during the three weeks of the button sale will be judged by a panel of three judges. The judges will select the 1988 Winter Carnival queen and her lady-in-waiting.

Tickets are available at the Department of Recreation office or from Ms. Garner-Gorton of 539 Onota St. Table reservations may be made by calling her after 6 p.m. Tables seat 10 people. 2/3/88

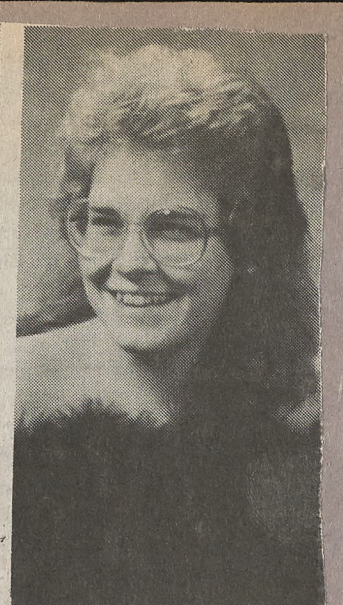
Robin M. Allessio

Jennifer L. Barrett



Renee A. Brodeur

Carolee M. Duzlak



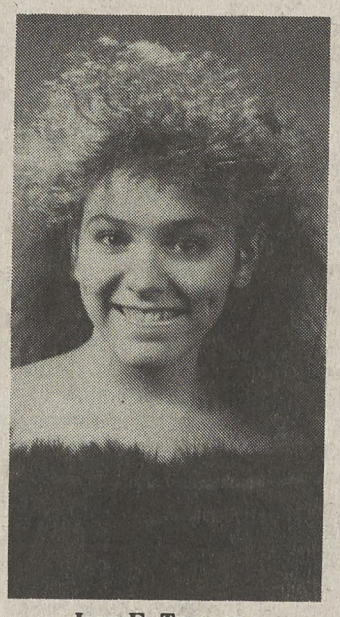
Photos by Shartrand

Brenda J. Henneborn

Crimson Huxtable

Ann K. Marshall

Melanie B. Polidoro



Jean E. Trzepacz

Pamela A. Warren

Carnival queen contest opens tonight

1/22/88

PITTSFIELD — The annual Winter Carnival Queen's Contest will begin this evening at the Stanley Club with dinner for the 10 queen contestants and their mothers. The contest is sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. as part of its 43rd annual Winter Carnival.

To compete for the title of Winter Carnival Queen and lady-in-waiting, each contestant must sell a minimum of 1,000 winter carnival buttons. The queen and lady-in-waiting will be selected at the Queen's Coronation Ball on Feb. 19 at the Itam Lodge. A panel of three judges will make their selections based on poise, appearance, personality, expression and understanding of the Winter Carnival activities.

The sale of the buttons is a separate contest and has no bearing on the judging of the queen and runner-up. A special award will be presented to the contestant selling the most buttons.

The queen and runner-up will also receive a special award in addition to various gifts donated by local merchants, banks and the committee. The contestants will choose a Miss Congeniality who will receive a gift, according to Mrs. Philip Delmolino, contest chairman.

This year's contestants are:

Robin M. Allessio, 18, the daughter of Ms. Dixie Allessio of 923 Holmes Road and Robert Allessio of 9 Taubert Ave. She is a senior at Pittsfield High School and works at McDonald's Restaurant. She is interested in becoming an accountant or computer specialist.

Jennifer L. Barrett, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Barrett of 87 Joseph Drive. A senior at PHS, Miss Barrett works at Janitec and has been on the high school pep club, track team, Junior Achievement and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). She is a student of LaFemmina School of Modeling where she participated in the LaFemmina Model of the Year Pageant.

Renee A. Brodeur, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Brodeur, 473A Crane Ave., is a senior at PHS and works at Abdow's Restaurant. Miss Brodeur is a president of both the local and state Future Business Leaders of America and she belongs to the YMCA. She has been a member of Junior Achievement, Girl Scouts, her church youth group, the school prom committee, and school track and cross country team.

Carolee M. Duzlak, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duzlak of 225 Highland Ave. A senior at Taconic High School, Miss Duzlak is a member of the school's prom and dance committees, yearbook staff and is captain of the varsity cheerleaders. She is the current Miss Lebanon Valley Speedway and is a former candy striper. She is being sponsored by Northeastern Racing Supply.

Brenda J. Henneborn, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Henneborn Jr. of 57 McKinley Terrace. Miss Henneborn works at Big-Y Foods and is a senior at Taconic High School where she is on the yearbook committee, travel club, prom and dance committees and SADD.

Crimson Huxtable, 17, is the daughter of Ms. Anne Sildoja of 10 Hall Place. Miss Huxtable is a senior at PHS where she has been a class representative and has been involved in the Future Business Leaders of America, SADD, the Girl Scouts and a member of her church choir. She is a member of the National Honor Society and does child care part-time.

Ann K. Marshall, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Marshall of 100 Lincoln St., is a senior at PHS. She is being sponsored by her employer, Bonanza Restaurant, and has been a member of the board of the Youth Advocacy Program.

Melanie B. Polidoro, 18, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Polidoro of 54 Harris St. and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zeller of Cheshire. A 1987 graduate of PHS, Miss Polidoro works at Berkshire County Savings Bank and attends evening business classes at Berkshire Community College. While in high school, she was photographer and editor of the school newspaper, a candy striper and a volunteer for the Special Olympics. She is being sponsored by White's Barber Shop.

Jean E. Trzepacz, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Trzepacz of 35 Robert St., is a senior at THS where she is a member of the yearbook committee and prom and dance committees. She is a member of the Polish Falcons Dance Group, the Polish National Alliance, and the Holy Family Church choir.

Pamela A. Warren, 17, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren of 66 Holmes Road. A senior at PHS, Miss Warren has been accepted at Westfield State College. She is a volunteer Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher at Sacred Heart Church and has been a member of the CYC, school prom committee, SADD, and pep club. Miss Warren is being sponsored by Drs. Louis and Steven Yarmosky.

* * * *

TOBOGGAN RACES: Drifting snow has forced the postponement of the toboggan races scheduled for this afternoon at Osceola Park as part of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

The races have been rescheduled for next Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.

2/14/88

* * * *

Fred Garner to emcee ball

PITTSFIELD — Fred P. Garner will be master of ceremonies for this year's queen's coronation ball tomorrow at Itam Lodge. The ball is sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc., of the Department of Recreation, as part of its 43rd annual winter carnival.

Mr. Garner is past chairman of the Winter Sports Committee. He is employed by GE ordnance systems and the Department of Recreation. He lives at 92 Holmes Road.

Dancing will be to the music of Celebration from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are available from Ms. Sheryl Garner Gorton, ball chairman, at $7.50 per couple. Reservations are suggested, and tables will seat 10 people. Tickets will be available at the door.

2/18/88

TOBOGGAN RACES: The Pittsfield Winter Carnival toboggan races will be held Sunday from noon to 3:30 at Osceola Park. The races are open to residents of Pittsfield and adjoining towns.

Ron Przedpelski, race chairman, said there will be races for two-, three-, and four-person toboggans. There will be two runs, and the better of the two times will be recorded. Racers may enter more than one category. Trophies will be awarded to the first three finishers in each category.

Only standard wooden toboggans will be permitted, and proper wax should be applied according to snow and weather conditions. Participants should wear heavily padded clothing. Toboggans will be available for loan, Przedpelski said.

Entry forms are available at the Department of Recreation office at 874 North St. and will be available Sunday at the park from 11 to noon. Applicants under 18 years of age must have a parent's signature on the entry blank. There is no charge to enter.

2/10/88

* * *

Carnival queen hopefuls kick off contest at dinner

By DAVID A. VALLETTE

PITTSFIELD — The contest that will lead to the crowning of the queen of this year's 43rd Annual Pittsfield Winter Carnival opened last night at a dinner at the Stanley Club.

There are 10 contestants, who each must sell a minimum of 1,000 winter carnival buttons in order to become eligible for the final competition for the title of carnival queen and lady-in-waiting. Their selection will be made Feb. 19 at a cornonation ball to be held at the Sons of Italy Itam Lodge at Pontoosuc Lake.

Successful button sellers will be judged on "poise, appearance, personality, expression and understanding of the winter carnival activities," according to Pat Peaslee, chairman of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee of the Pittsfield Department of Recreation.

While the button sales qualify the candidates, the sales represent a separate contest. A special award will be given to the contestant selling the most buttons.

The following are competing this year:

Robin M. Allessio, 18, daughter of Dixie Allession, 923 Holmes Road, and Robert Allessio, 9 Taubert Ave., is a senior at Pittsfield High School employed part-time by McDonald's Restaurants. She intends to become an accountant or computer specialist.

Jennifer L. Barrett, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Barrett of 87 Joseph Drive, is a senior at Pittsfield High School, employed part-time by Jani-Tec, and is a student at LaFemmina School of Modeling.

Renee A. Brodeur, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Brodeur of 473A Crane Ave., is a senior at Pittsfield High School, employed at Abdow's Restaurant part-time. She is president of the local and state organization of the Future Business Leaders of America.

Carolee M. Duzlak, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duzlak of 225 Highland Ave., is a senior at Taconic High School where she is captain of the varsity cheerleaders. She is currently holder of the title "Miss Lebanon Valley Speedway."

Brenda J. Henneborn, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Henneborn Jr., 57 McKinley Terrace, is a senior at Taconic employed part-time by Big Y supermarkets. She is a member of Students Against Drunk Driving.

Crimson Huxtable, 17, daughter of Anne Sildoja of 10 Hall Place, is a senior at Pittsfield High who works part-time in child care. She is in the National Honors Society.

Ann K. Marshall, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Marshall, 100 Lincoln St., is a senior at Pittsfield High working part-time at Bonanza Restaurant. She is a former member of the board of Youth Advocacy Program.

Melanie B. Polidoro, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Polidoro, 54 Harris St., and of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zeller, Route 8, Cheshire, is a 1987 graduate of Pittsfield High now taking evening business courses at Berkshire Community College and working full-time at Berkshire County Savings Bank. She was editor of the high school's newspaper.

Jean E. Trzepacz, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Trzepacz of 35 Robert St., is a senior at Taconic High. She is a member of the Polish Falcons Dance Group and the Holy Family Church Choir.

Pamela A. Warren, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren of 66 Holmes Road, is a senior at Pittsfield High and a volunteer teacher at Sacred Heart Church. She will be attending Westfield State College.

Carnival button contest begins

PITTSFIELD — This year's contest for the Winter Carnival button design is under way, according to Gail A. Garner, chairman of the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee of the Department of Recreation.

Local schools and recreation agencies have received informational fliers on the contest guidelines. Carnival buttons and Winter Carnival informational materials will display the winning design. Winter Carnival queen contestants will sell the buttons beginning in mid-January.

Contestants will be divided into groups according to grade levels: 1 and 2, 3 to 5, 6 to 8, and 9 to 12. It is open to children from Pittsfield and adjoining towns.

Entry requirements and contest guidelines are available by calling Garner of 92 Holmes Road evenings.

A $25 gift certificate at a store of the winner's choosing will be awarded to all division winners; the overall winner will receive a $50 gift certificate. A Winter Carnival patch will be given to each entrant.

Entries may be left in school offices, mailed or delivered to the Department of Recreation office at 874 North St., the main office of the Boys' Club or the Girls Club.

The winning designs will be chosen Nov. 16. 10-20-88

Do's and don't's are listed for sports equipment sale

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee has announced that due to stricter safety regulations it will not accept for its annual equipment sale ski boots and ski bindings that do not have "din numbers" on them.

Din numbers are stamped on the bottom of boots and determine that the materials the boots are made of are compatible with ski bindings. Older boots made of thermo plastic do not have din numbers on them and are considered a liability factor.

The committee will not accept leather boots, wooden skis, mittens, hats, goggles, underwear, socks, double-runner skates or other outdated equipment.

In great demand are toboggans, sleds, snowshoes and ice skates.

Other do's and don't's:

- Ice skates should be polished, rust removed and have laces in them.
- All clothing must be clean and in good condition and not in need of repair.
- Articles belonging together should be attached so that they cannot be separated. The committee is not responsible for lost items.
- Ski boots should be clean, have all their buckles and have din numbers.
- Ski bottoms should have all gouges filled and rust removed.
- Ski bindings being sold separately from skis should be mounted securely on a board. Loose bindings, cable bindings and bindings without din numbers will be refused.

Items will be taken in at the Ethyl/Marland building, 125 Peck's Road, across from St. Joseph's Cemetery, Wednesday and Thurday from noon to 8. No items will be accepted after these times.

The committee retains 25 percent of the selling price to help defray the expenses of the events to be conducted as part of the 44th annual Winter Carnival.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the sale chairman, Penny Angelini, 142 Imperial Ave. 11-7-88

Sports sale checks available tomorrow 11-15-88

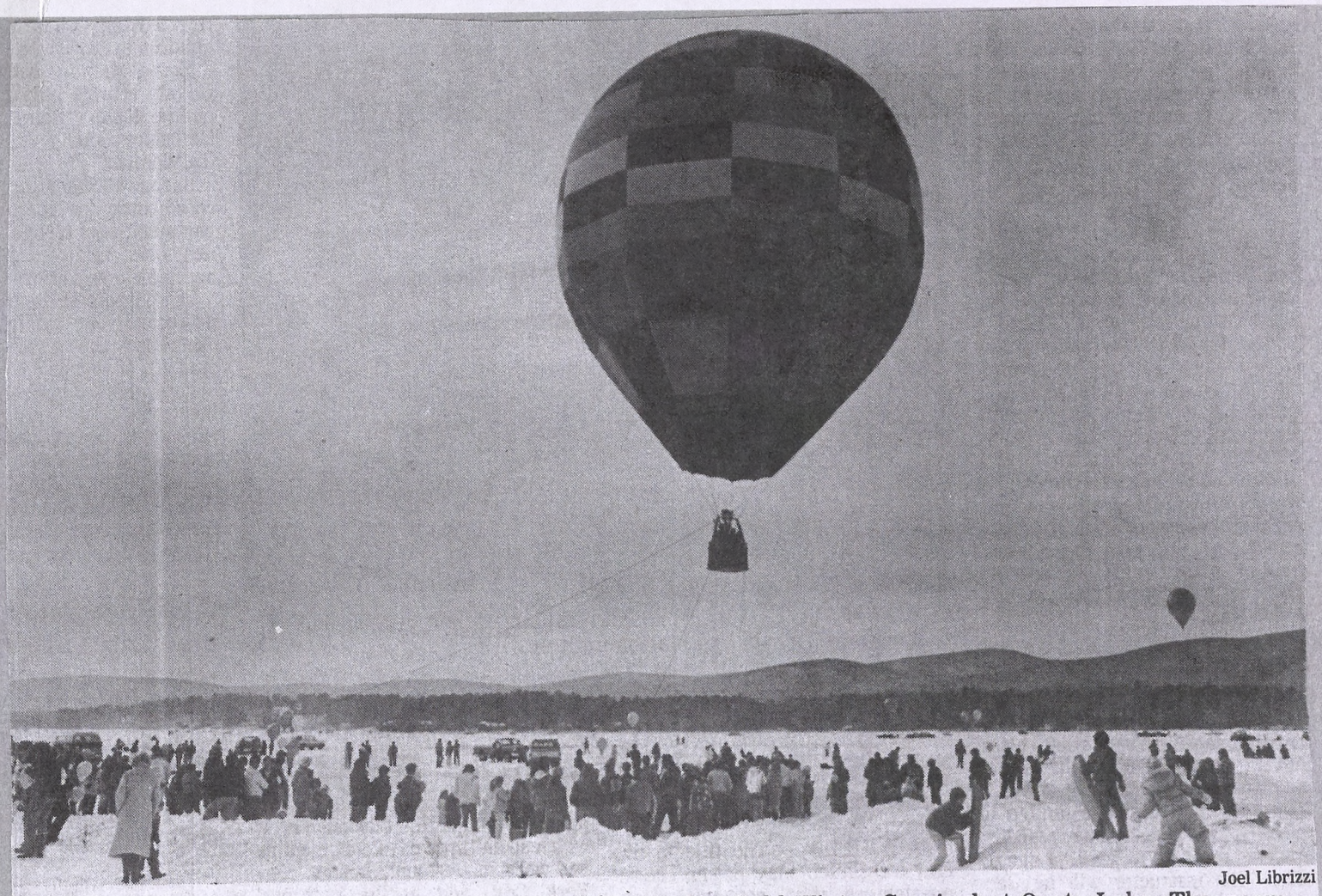
PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee has announced that people who took items to last week's winter sports equipment sale must pick up their checks or unsold items tomorrow from noon to 6 and Thursday from 4 to 7 at the sale site in the Ethyl/Marland Building at 125 Peck's Road. These are the only pickup times.

10 Years Ago

John Sinopoli, a chef at the now closed Rainbow restaurant on First Street in Pittsfield, purchased the Morningside Deli in the Morningside Plaza on Tyler Street, Pittsfield, completed extensive remodeling and reopened it under its original name.

A fish, ice fishing with a ski toque on his head, was chosen to symbolize this year's Pittsfield winter carnival. The blue-and-white design won a $50 savings bond for Dawn Kellogg, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dominick Kellogg of 18 Morgan St., Pittsfield. Dawn, 13, was an 8th grade student at Crosby Junior High School.

Kevin Fox, a senior forward, was elected captain of the St. Joseph's High School hockey team. The Crusaders' two assistant captains were Peter Langlois, a senior goalie, and Michael Daly, a senior forward. Other seniors on the squad were John Tremblay, Mark Murray, Scott Madden, William Goggins and Dave DeLoria. 12-7-88



Joel Librizzi

ABOVE IT ALL, a hot air balloon provides free rides to children yesterday at the Family Day of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival at Onota Lake. The warm weather brought out large numbers of people.

5,500 attend carnival Family Day

By Holly A. Taylor

PITTSFIELD — As a hot air balloon hovered above the crowd, families strolled across the frozen surface of Onota Lake, played snow golf, crafted snow sculptures and basked in the balmy weather that marked Family Day of the 1988 Winter Carnival.

Record temperatures in the 50s were a mixed blessing. The weather produced a large turnout estimated at 5,500 persons by organizers, but it also turned the ice to slush and forced cancellation of the ice skating races, according to Family Day Chairman Kathy Peaslee.

Not only did people participate in the activities yesterday, Peaslee said, but the weather prompted many to stay for much of the afternoon. The refreshment stand sold out of hot dogs, hot chocolate and coffee.

Fishing derby

The event began at 7:30 a.m. when fishermen began dotting the lake for the fishing derby. By the derby's end at noon, more than 90 persons had participated.

During the afternoon, Jim Chubbuck of Middletown, Conn., operated the hot air ballon, which remained tethered to the lake by a 100-foot rope. Rides in the woven balloon basket were short and free, allowing many people to observe the activities from aloft.

Ralph E. Blakesley, Dalton's dog officer, provided rides for youngsters in a horse-drawn wagon, and four skydivers from Northampton floated down onto the lake.

On one hill, 100 children raced against the clock as they sped down a 30-yard slope on red plastic sleds. Parents rode with children under 6, bouncing over bumps and spraying snow with their sleds.

Out on the lake, 39 golfers used 9-irons and putters on a nine-hole golf course. For the first time, people were able to tee off on a patch of grass on the lake's bank, according to Herbert "Spike" Jones, who was handing out fluorescent balls.

"This is the mildest weather we've ever had," said Jones. "Usually, it's freezing cold."

The snow sculpture contest attracted three entries for its three prizes. George Phillips of

2/1/88

Largemouth bass takes top prize in fish derby

2-01-88

By Theodore Giddings

PITTSFIELD — Edward Mazich of Northampton hauled out a 2-pound, 3-ounce largemouth black bass to win the grand prize yesterday in the annual Winter Carnival ice fishing derby at Onota Lake. He was awarded a pair of binoculars.

Nonresidents of the city also captured first place in three of the four divisions of the contest. Dennis Keetza of Hadley won the men's division with a 1-pound, 15-ounce largemouth bass, Brian Walak, 9, of Dalton, the boys' with a 1-pound, 3-ounce pickerel and his sister, Amanda, 7, the girls' also a 1-pound, 3-ounce pickerel.

Unseasonably warm weather brought out a field of 39 men, 35 boys, 20 girls, and 1 woman. Not all caught fish, but those that didn't seemed to enjoy themselves because of the pleasant conditions.

Prizes were awarded for the five heaviest fish in each division, and a raffle was conducted for extra prizes.

Other winners were: Men's division, DAvid Chmura, Hadley, 1-pound, 1-ounce bass; Bill Pizzuto, Pittsfield, 1-pound 7-ounce rainbow trout; Bob Pruyne, Lanesboro, 15-ounce perch; Ron Goyette, Pittsfield 14-ounce pickerel.

Boys' division, Bryan Sokdato, Pittsfield, 1-pound, 2-ounce rainbow trout; Paul Smegal (address not listed), 14-ounce pickerel; Andy Michel, Pittsfield, 13-ounce pickerel; Bob Pruyne, Lanesboro, 13-ounce pickerel; Tom Meyzich, Florence, 13-ounce pickerel.

Girls' division, Heather Rand, Pittsfield, 14-ounce pickerel; Marybeth Thornber, Housatonic, 12-ounce pickerel; Rebecca Proper, Cheshire, 12-ounce pickerel; Amy Filkins, Pittsfield, 7-ounce perch.

The husband and wife team of Robert and Jean Wood headed the derby and presented the prizes in the Frank Controy Pavilion.

2/1/88

Joel Librizzi

SCULPTING ICE at yesterday's Winter Carnival Family Day are Berkshire Community College students in Carl Maia's culinary arts class. From left, the sculptures are the letters WC for winter carnival, a flower vase and a dolphin.

2.1.88

2/1/88

Winter sports competitors can get financial assistance

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee of the Department of Recreation has announced that applications for financial support are available for those winter sport competitors who have earned the right to participate in district or national competition, based on their performance in local competition. Winter sport organizations and teams are also invited to request assistance.

Applicants must be residents of Pittsfield or abutting towns, attend secondary school; be recommended by a coach or knowledgeable adult, and file a request with the Winter Sports Committee's Financial Support Committee by April 8.

Assistance to winter sport organizations and school teams is based on ability to pay and number of people served, as well as need as determined from a financial statement that must be submitted to the committee with the aid request.

The committee says its intent is to make a contribution toward expenses and not to pay full expenses of competitors or organization.

Applications may be obtained at the Department of Recreation office, 874 North St. and are to be returned to committee treasurer Patricia Peaslee, 116 Shore Drive.

Additional information may be obtained from members of the Financial Support Committee: Carl Peaslee, Thomas Angelini or Wayne Vandergrift.

3/17/88

B4 — The Berkshire Eagle, Wednesday, January 27, 1988

Carnival family day to take place Sunday

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee will stage its annual family day on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at Onota Lake as part of its 43d Winter Carnival.

The Frank Controy Pavilion will serve as headquarters for the various activities, according to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pezze, chairmen.

An ice-fishing derby is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m., with four divisions: men and women, age 17 and over, and boys and girls, under 17. Prizes will be awarded for the heaviest fish of any species, as well as for the heaviest pike, bass, pickerel, trout and perch.

Procedure

Registration is at the pavilion between 7 and 11 a.m., according to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wood, chairmen of the derby. Fish must be checked in by 2 p.m. Adults will be charged a $1 registration fee; children may enter free.

Sliding races, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. William Puntin, are scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Skating races, under the direction of Carl Peaslee, are scheduled for 2 p.m.

Age groups, for both events, are 11 and 12; 8-10, 6 and 7, and under 6. Youngsters in the under 6 category must be accompanied by a parent. Registration for sliding will be noon to 1 p.m.; for skating, noon to 1:30 p.m. Registration is free, and entry blanks are available at the Department of Recreation's office, Springside House, 874 North St., and at the Controy Pavilion at noon Sunday. Ribbons and trophies will be awarded in each division.

Golf tournament

The golf on ice tournament, with Spike Jones in charge, is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on the lake in the vicinity of the pavilion. Entry fee is $1. Golf balls will be furnished, but participants are asked to bring their own clubs. Prizes will be awarded.

A snow sculpturing contest for families and organizations is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Garner Sr. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Berkshire Community College students are expected to make ice sculptures during the day.

Balloons, rides

In addition to the competitions, there will be free balloons, sleigh rides and, weather permitting, hot-air balloon rides and a parachute diving exhibition. The Pittsfield Fire Department will have a fire engine on display. Children entered in the various activities will receive a free hot dog and hot chocolate.

Rrefreshments will be available at a nominal fee. The food kitchen will be under the direction of Patricia Peaslee.

Access is via the Lakeway Drive entrance to Burbank Park off Valentine Road.

1/27/88

Winter sports group to conduct clinic

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation's Winter Sports Committee will conduct a "din numbers" clinic tomorrow evening at 7 at Springside House. A regular departmental meeting will follow.

Volunteers for the annual winter sports equipment sale are asked to attend the clinic. Din numbers are part of a new numbering system developed by the ski industry to ensure the compatibility of boots and bindings.

Additional volunteers are needed for next month's sale. They may contact sale chairman Penny Angelini of 42 Imperial Ave. for details.

10-18-88

Family Day of carnival draws many

Continued from Page B1

294 Gale Ave., assisted by an assortment of brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews, won the top prize of $100 for a dinosaur, dubbed "an Onotasaurus."

Other contestants were Douglas, Dennis and Deborah Melle of Barker Road, who won $50 for second place for a sea dragon, colored green, and Kelly Daigneault of 129 Euclid Ave. and Nikki Martin of 12 Bossidy Drive, who received $25 for third place for their construction of a jail.

. Attach to winter carnival

There was a tie for first place, matched cards.

1st place with a 26 — Keith Dapper;
2nd place with a 26 — Ron Carr; 3rd place with 28 — Sam Nykorchuck.

Children's Sled Races:

Girls 6 and under: 1. Carla Stevens; 2. Jamie Williams; 3. Danielle Cousineau.

Girls 6-7: 1. Jessica Flynn; 2. Christina Manzolini; 3. Shannon McKeever.

Girls 8-10:

1. Jennifer Shouldice; 2. Beth Puntin; 3. Tamara Nachbauer.

Girls 11-12:

1. Carla Kinnas; 2. Johanna Ruusukallio.

Boys 6 and under:

1. Andy McKeever; 2. Scot Forgey; 3. A.J. Whiteley.

Boys 6-7:

1. Joey Maffuccio; 2. Matt Nachbauer; 3. Mike Rennie.

Boys 8-10:

1. David Carmel; 2. Joey Magner; 3. Bob Pruyne.

Boys 11-12:

1. Pat Mickle; 2. Rick Duzlak; 3. John Pierce.

Susan Plageman

NEWLY CROWNED Winter Carnival queen Pamela A. Warren, center, stands beside lady-in-waiting Crimson Huxtable, right, and Jean Trzepacz, this year's top button seller. Melanie B. Polidoro, not pictured, was named Miss Congeniality.

Pamela A. Warren crowned 1988 Winter Carnival queen

PITTSFIELD — Pamela A. Warren of 66 Holmes Road, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Warren, was crowned 1988 Winter Carnival queen at last night's coronation ball at the Itam Lodge. The contest was sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. of the Department of Recreation as part of the 43rd annual Winter Carnival.

Tracey Rouette, the 1987 Winter Carnival Queen, crowned Warren, who was escorted by Brian French.

The new queen was dressed in a magenta lamé gown. She will receive $100 from the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee in addition to other gifts donated by local businesses, merchants and banks. Warren is a student at Pittsfield High School.

Lady-in-waiting selected

Selected as lady-in-waiting was Crimson Huxtable of 10 Hall Place. She is the daughter of Anne Sildoja. Huxtable, who was crowned by last year's lady-in-waiting, Jennifer Ellery, was sponsored by Inside Out of Pittsfield. She wore a pink taffeta gown and was escorted by Shaun Delmolino. She will receive $50 from the committee in addition to other gifts. She is also a student at Pittsfield High.

Jean E. Trzepacz of 35 Robert St. is this year's top button seller, selling 2,146 Winter Carnival buttons. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Trzepacz. Trzepacz received a gift certificate for $75 from a local store for selling the most buttons. She is a student at Taconic High School.

Chosen Miss Congeniality was Melanie B. Polidoro. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Polidoro of 54 Harris St. and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zeller of Cheshire, and is employed at Berkshire County Savings Bank.

A total of 15,952 buttons was sold by the 10 contestants. The profit from the sale of buttons, along with money raised through the annual winter sports equipment sale, defrays the expenses of the Winter Carnival and also assists winter sport competitors and organizations in furthering their efforts in competition outside the local area.

All contestants received gifts donated by businesses and the committee.

Judges were Paul E. Porter of Great Barrington and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan of Portsmouth, N.H. Porter, executive director of the Community Development Corp. of South Berkshire, is president of Home Development Corp. and a former high school hockey coach at Lenox and Lee high schools. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan are self-employed manufacturers' representatives, who sell women's sportswear in New England. They have two grown children.

2/20/88

The winning design

11/21/88

Steven Allessio is winner of button design contest

PITTSFIELD — Steven Allessio is the winner of the annual Winter Carnival button design contest sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Allessio of 24 Greenings Ave. and is a 10th grader at St. Joseph's High School.

His design, chosen from 172 entries, is that of a skating bear that has fallen and cracked the ice. Allessio has been winner in his grade division in the contest for the past two years.

This year's design will appear on the 44th annual Winter Carnival buttons, which will be sold by the carnival queen contestants starting in mid-January.

Allessio will receive a $50 gift certificate good at a local store of his choosing.

Winner of the Grades 1-2 class was Timothy Watson, a 2nd grader at Williams School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Watson of 111 Lucia Drive. Sommer Moore won the Grades 3-5 division for her entry submitted through the Girls Club. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Moore II of 60 Howard St. She is in the 3rd grade at Egremont School.

Winner of the Grades 6-8 class was Kelly Blanchard, an 8th grader at Herberg Middle School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Blanchard of 160 Imperial Ave.

Jim Dowling was the winner in the Grades 9-12 class with his design submitted through the Boys' Club. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dowling of 121 South Main St., Lanesboro.

Division winners will receive a $25 gift certificate, and each entrant will receive a participant patch. Awards will be made at a meeting of the committee Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House.

70.

Area Sports

Winter carnival toboggan races draw 33 teams 2/22/88

TOBOGGAN RACES: Thirty-three teams participated in the toboggan races at Osceola Park yesterday as part of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival.

Scott Sherman and Charlie Smith of Pittsfield won the two-person event in a time of 13.49 seconds, nipping Phillip Green and Mark Hamling of Pittsfield by .12 second. Third place went to Pat Berry and Brian Miceli of Pittsfield in 13.80.

Bill Grady, Bob Pomeroy and Jary Turrell, all of Pittsfield, won the three-person race in 13.30 seconds. Hamling and Green teamed with Frank Johnson of Lanesboro to take second in 13.60 and Anne Murphy and George Crosier of Pittsfield and Wendy Stebbins of Dalton were third in 13.88.

Turrell, Pomeroy, Grady and Frank Rotti of Pittsfield won the four-person race in 13.63 seconds. Phillip, Ben and Melinda Green and Hamling were second in 13.79 and Mike Root and Smith of Pittsfield and Walter and Lynn Cummings of Lenox were third in 13.82.

Yesterday's cold weather resulted in fast track conditions at Osceola.

* * * *

Joel Librizzi

CAREENING ACROSS THE LINE are Phillip and Melinda Green of Pittsfield in yesterday's toboggan races at Osceola Park. The races, held annually as part of the Pittsfield Winter Carnival, attracted 33 teams.

Susan Plageman

Fit fancier

11/12/88

Daniel Copeland of Lenox tries to fit boots to skis during the opening moments of the annual winter sports equipment sale on Friday. The sale, which offers new and used equipment, will continue from 10-3 today at the Ethyl/Marland building at 125 Peck's Road, Pittsfield. The sale is sponsored by the Pittsfield Winter Sports Committee Inc. of the Department of Recreation.

Meg Sandoval

Button designer

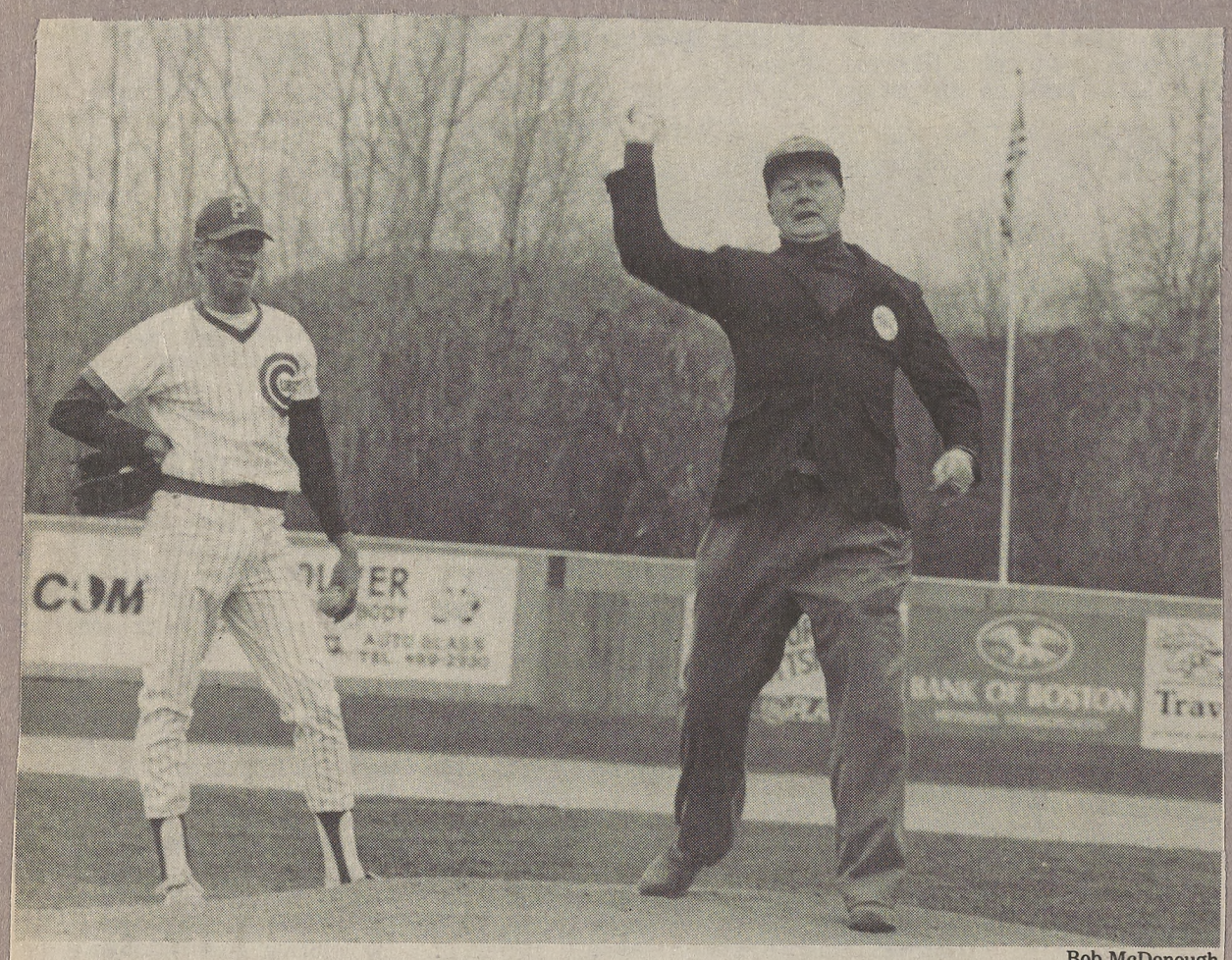
Steven L. Allessio, son of Lawrence and Lorraine Allessio of 24 Greenings Ave., Pittsfield, and a sophomore at St. Joseph's High School, is the winner of the 1989 Winter Carnival button-design contest. Chosen from 172 entries, Allessio's ice-skating bear will appear on buttons that will be sold in January by contestants for carnival queen.

Susan Plageman

Wahconah lagoon

4/5/88

Off-base seagulls visited the flooded parking lot at Wahconah Park, home of the Pittsfield Cubs, yesterday in a presumably vain quest for fish, if that's what they were looking for. An never-failing annual occurrence, the flooding usually subsides in time for the baseball opener, this year on April 18 when the Cubs take on the Albany Yankees.



Bob McDonough

STAR HURLERS for the Pittsfield Cubs yesterday were veteran umpire Joe Harrison, right, who threw out the ceremonial first pitch for "Opening Day 2," and Cubs' left-hander Rich Scheid, left, who fired eight innings of shutout ball in Pittsfield's 5-1 win over the Reading Phillies. 4/24/88

Arlos asks to extend Cubs' lease to 5 years

PITTSFIELD — City Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos wants the City Council to go on record favoring a five-year lease with the Pittsfield Cubs for the use of Wahconah Park.

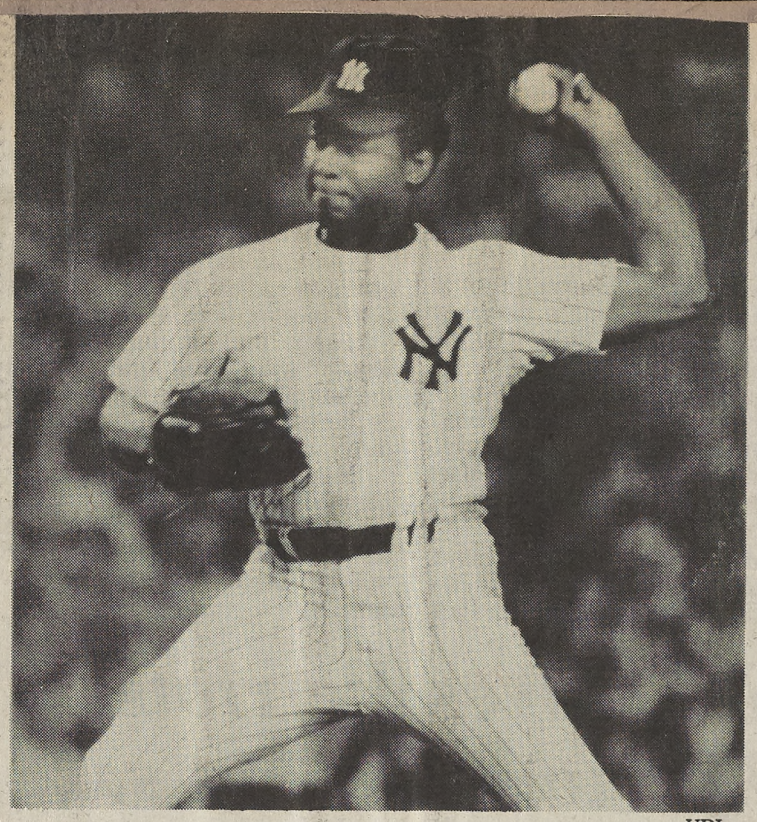
In the petition filed yesterday that is to go before the council when it meets Tuesday, Arlos wrote that the present one-year lease is disadvantageous to the city.

"A one-year contract fosters a sense of uncertainty," regarding future use of the park, he wrote.

Arlos wrote that should the club decide to leave, the city would not have sufficient time to sign up a new team or make any other long-range plans regarding the use of the park. He wants not only a five-year lease, but a six-month notice requirement for renewal.

"The city receives only $1 a year from the club and, in return, provides it with thousands of dollars of services," he wrote.

The lease comes up for renewal in March, and its continuance is undecided because attendance has been sparse. 9-7-88



UPI

COMING TO PITTSFIELD as the Cubs' new pitching coach in 1988 will be left-hander Grant Jackson, who spent 18 seasons in the major leagues. Here, he is shown in action in 1976 with the New York Yankees.

Pittsfield Cubs to name new GM this afternoon

By Bob McDonough

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Cubs will unveil their new "mystery man" this afternoon — the successor to Larry Revo as the team's general manager.

The new general manager, whose identity has been a well-kept secret in recent weeks, will be introduced at a press conference scheduled at 4:15 poolside at the Berkshire Hilton Inn.

"We didn't mean to make it such a big secret, but in his job, he is involved with Pittsfield businesses, and he won't be making his resignation official until we make our announcement," said Robin Wadsworth, the team's director of sales and community relations who will introduce her new boss this afternoon.

Team officials have said, however, that the new general manager is from New Jersey and has a background in marketing and sales rather than baseball — although he played semipro baseball in Canada.

The job had originally been offered to Gary Fitzpatrick, who was general manager of the Kinston, N.C., team in the Class A Carolina League. He turned down the job, however, to pursue a career in radio advertising sales. Kinston's general manager is now North Johnson, who was Revo's right-hand man in Pittsfield in 1985 and 1986 until becoming vice president of the Kinston team last season.

The new general manager will be part of Pittsfield's 1988 front office management team that will include Wadsworth, administrative assistant Kathy Bramer (both returning from last year) and program coordinator John Jonas from Fairfield, Conn. Jonas will be introduced along with the new general manager today, Wadsworth said.

Revo, who is part owner of the team with his brother, Stuart, had run the Pittsfield operation for its first three years at Wahconah Park. He has left Pittsfield to run the family's team at Charleston, S.C., in the Class A South Atlantic League — one of several teams, including Kinston, owned and operated by the Revos.

1/22/88

Berkshire trio buys upstate N.Y. baseball team

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A Berkshire County group headed by Dalton businessman Michael T. Casey will be named today as the new owner of the Little Falls (N.Y.) Mets of the Class A New York-Penn Baseball League, a move that has already involved the owners of the Pittsfield Cubs and could affect the future of professional baseball in Pittsfield.

This news comes in the same week that the Pittsfield Parks Commission turned down an offer by the Cubs' owners of a $30,000 donation to the city in return for a three-year lease on Wahconah Park.

The reason these items are intertwined is this: Pittsfield Cubs' principal owner, Stuart Revo, had previously bid for the Little Falls franchise but was turned down by the New York-Penn League because he said he wanted to move the franchise to Pittsfield. To move that franchise to Pittsfield, the Eastern League Cubs would have to move to another city, and the Parks Commission wanted a guarantee that the Cubs would stay. The Revo group, still uncertain of its specific long-term plans for baseball in Pittsfield, wouldn't give that assurance.

"We told them if they wanted to continue the Cubs' Double A team here for three years, we might give it more thought, but they said no way," Parks Commission Chairman Clifford J. Nilan said. "When they rejected keeping the Cubs here three more years, that was that."

The Revo group has long sought to move the Cubs to Binghamton, N.Y., but the construction of a new stadium there has been stalled for more than three years.

$200,000 for N.Y.-Penn team

There will be a meeting today in Auburn, N.Y., at which the New York-Penn League's directors are expected to vote their approval of the sale of the Little Falls team to Casey, a longtime area baseball coach, and his Pittsfield partners, Francis E. Devanny (operator of the Devanny funeral homes) and Rick Murphy (owner of Custom Cleaning and a former player under Casey with the Dalton Collegians baseball team.)

The purchase price, Casey said, is about $200,000.

A natural question is whether that group, formed corporately as C, D & M Associates, bought the team with the idea of moving it to Wahconah Park if the Cubs leave town.

"If the Cubs were to move sometime in the future, and there was no franchise in Pittsfield, that's the only time we would address that issue," Casey said. "Right now we're focusing on Little Falls and Herkimer County and really nothing beyond that."

Casey, who owns nursing homes in Pittsfield, Dalton and Hinsdale among his business interests, said he will continue with his Berkshire County businesses, as will Devanny and Murphy, a 25-year-old former Taconic High and Boston College baseball standout. Casey, a 1960 graduate, and Devanny, a 1950 graduate, are both former St. Joseph's High athletes.

Casey was assistant baseball coach at North Adams State College last year, a post he has left. Before that, he was coach of the Dalton Collegians for 16 years, and he continues as that team's sponsor.

Casey said he started shopping around for a baseball team late in 1987 and approached Revo about possibly buying the Cubs. He said he received no response.

Casey then contacted one of his former players, Dan Duquette, who is director of player development with the Montreal Expos, and asked if he knew of any available teams. Duquette, who supervises the operation of the Expos' Jamestown, N.Y., team in the New York-Penn League, told him about Little Falls. Casey contacted longtime Little Falls owner Peter "Woody" Kern but was originally told that someone else was negotiating for the team. The "someone else" was Revo, whose possible purchase was shot down by the league's directors when he announced plans to move the team.

Negotiations were reopened with Casey's group at the end of February and concluded March 1, after the New York-Penn League did a background check on Casey's organization.

"It looks like Mr. Casey has the qualifications," said

3/24/88

Casey group buys Class A team
Continued on Page D1

Cimini All-Star game slated for tomorrow

WAH. PARK

Thirty-seven of Berkshire County's best high school baseball players will get together on the same field tomorrow for the sixth annual Pete Cimini Memorial All-Star Game at Wahconah Park.

The game, slated to start at 1 p.m., matches the Northern Division all-stars against their Southern Division counterparts. The North has won the game four seasons in a row, after the South took the series opener in 1982.

The game is named for the Wahconah Regional baseball coach who died in 1980, and proceeds from the contest go to a scholarship fund named for Cimini. The has raised some $2,000 for the fund over the first five years.

Pittsfield High coach Bob Moynihan will guide the Northern Division All-Stars, while McCann Tech's Ed Noel will coach the South.

The rosters for game are as follows:

Northern Division — Pat Mitchell, Steve Little and Mike Laundry, Pittsfield; Glenn Sime, Scott McCann and John Gray, McCann Tech; Matt Boyer, Jeff Cook and Dennis Dickinson, Drury; Dale Gurek, Bob Hammer and Tom Hankey, Monument; Scott Snella, Larry Doughty and Paul Gage, Wahconah; Gerry Arace, Rob Coco and Paul Culpo, St. Joseph's.

Southern Division — Paul Trottier, Mike Bissaillon and Bill Kalisz, Hoosac Valley; Travis Ovitt, Eric Vining and Dave Smith, Mount Everett; Clark Billings, Ben Grinnell and Darin Jones, Mount Greylock; Tom Rumbolt, Joe Ellsworth and Ken Bushika, McCann Tech; Tom Finnegan, Bryan Carlino and Greg Girardey, Lee; Steve O'Brien, Omar Zabian and Silah Zabian, Lenox.

5/29/88

Revo takes Pittsfield

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The City Council meeting, Nov. 22, revealed some pleasant and some distressing facts [Eagle, Nov. 23].

We learned from Councilman Peter Arlos that two years ago the Fourth of July Parade Committee paid back with interest all the seed money that the city provided to help it get started. So much for the pleasant information.

On the other hand, the management of the Pittsfield Cubs has not been so public-spirited. Their motto seems to be "Take all you can get and give nothing back." As Peter Arlos again pointed out, during the Parade Committee's annual Precision and Pageantry Drum Corps competition, which attracted thousands of people to Wahconah Park, Stuart Revo, who controls all the concessions as a result of his lease with the city, doubled the price of the food sold. Drum corps fans were made to pay twice as much as baseball fans.

I'm sure that most people who enjoy drum corps competitions wouldn't have minded paying more if they felt that the money was going to the public-spirited Parade Committee. But knowing that every penny went into Revo's pockets is pretty hard to take.

Mr. Arlos is right in pointing out how Revo is taking advantage of Pittsfield and in showing how other cities like Albany, Harrisburg and Reading get far greater sums from professional baseball than Pittsfield does. Here in Pittsfield the score is Pittsfield 0 — Revo 1,000.

RAYMOND W. JACKSON
127 Elaine Drive
Pittsfield

12-6-88

Drum corps from Holland coming for contest Aug. 3

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee has announced that the sixth annual Precision & Pageantry Drum Corps Competition will be held Wednesday, Aug. 3, at Wahconah Park at 7:30 p.m.

Beatrix, of Hilversum, Holland, one of the top European drum corps, will appear in the show. Beatrix will travel over 15,000 miles to be in Pittsfield and continue on a three-week tour of the United States, competing with all world-class corps.

Also scheduled to appear are the Cavaliers of Rosemont, Ill., one of only two remaining all-male corps in the world; Star of Indiana of Bloomington, the only corps ever to make the world finals in their first year of existence; Dutch Boy of Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario, the Canadian national champions; Blue Knights of Denver; the Ventures of Kitchener, Ontario, the Drum Corps International Class A world champions and only remaining all-female corps; and the Boston Crusaders.

Contest chairman Ray Pulver Jr. said the committee will make a change in the seating policy for this year's competition. The grandstand will become reserved seating. The bleachers on the right- and left-field lines will remain as open seating. Tickets will be available May 30. Reserved seats are $8 in advance and $9 the day of the show. General admission bleacher seating is $7 in advance and $8 the day of the show. Ticket outlets will be announced June 1.

5/11/88

Joel Librizzi

Wackiness at Wahconah Park

8-1-88

The serious business came when the Pittsfield Cubs beat the Williamsport Bills 8-2 yesterday, but the fun stuff came when the visiting Miami Maniac, right, entered into a dueling bats routine with bespectacled Cubs' pitcher Laddie Renfroe, left.

77.

Casey group buys Class A team

Continued from Page A1

league President Leo Pinckney, who is expected to attend a press conference tomorrow in Little Falls to announce the approval of the sale.

"The thing that really helped us was the contacts we have in baseball," said Casey, who has helped eight of his players land pro baseball contracts. "We had Danny up in Montreal, [general manager] Tom Grieve in Texas, [broadcasting director] Mike Ryan down in New York, and [former Pittsfield franchise owner] Pat McKernan was very helpful to us down in Albuquerque."

Casey traveled to Port St. Lucie, Fla., two weeks ago to meet with Mets' minor league director Steve Schryver and said he was welcomed "as a member of the Mets family. They stressed that we're invited to all organization meetings and that our input is welcome, and that we're welcome at Shea Stadium anytime. . . . We're all very excited about the fact they've shown the interest in us that they have."

Smallest baseball town

In Little Falls, population 6,800, Casey's organization will be in the smallest town in minor league baseball, drawing on a countywide population of about 50,000. Located just east of Utica, the team attracted 32,536 for 39 home dates (7th among the 10 returning league franchises), and turned a profit for the first time last year, Casey said.

Casey expressed satisfaction with the business end of things so far, since all box seat season tickets, outfield billboards and program advertisements have already been sold. He said at least one of the three owners will be present for all home games, so there will be no suggestion of an absentee landlord.

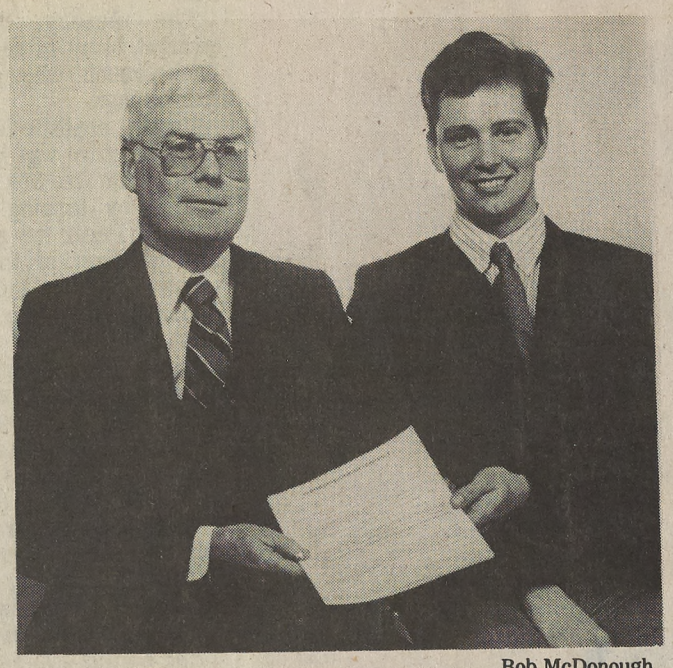
"We feel we have an obligation to the people over there to give them a product they're really excited about," Casey said. "Our first intent was we would love to be here locally, because this obviously is where our interest is, but that didn't work out and we got into baseball where we could. We have no intention of interfering with the Cubs' operation. They're here and they're established in Pittsfield. I myself am a season ticket holder. . . . As members of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, we were concerned about any indication, just getting started, that we would interfere with somebody else's franchise. I think we've bent over backward to be sure we stayed clear of that, and that's why I talked to [Pittsfield General Manager] E.J. Narcise to make sure he knows where we're coming from."

Mets not keen on Pittsfield

Casey also pointed out that any move to Pittsfield would also require permission by the Mets, who haven't been too keen on Pittsfield's minor league reputation.

"It was approached to them, and, quite honestly, they would have to be sold on the idea," Casey said.

Although the Pittsfield Cubs had the best record in professional baseball last year, they were dead last in the Eastern League in attendance, continuing a historic trend.



Bob McDonough

1978 photo

BASEBALL PARTNERS in the purchase of the Little Falls, N.Y. team in the New York-Penn League include Mike Casey and Rick Murphy, shown with player development contract in photo at left, and Francis Devanny at right.

Casey is also aware he would have to change the minds of the New York-Penn directors who shot down Revo when he planned to move the team.

Cubs' plan rejected

While Casey is careful to caution against any plans to move a team into Pittsfield, the intentions of the existing Wahconah Park tenants are still causing much discussion.

After four months of negotiating a one-year extension of the team's $1-a-year lease with the city, the Cubs last week proposed a three-year extension beyond this year, with the Cubs paying the city $10,000 each of those three years for improvements at Wahconah Park. In return, the Revo group would have the right of first refusal for use of the park — meaning any team owned by that organization would have first rights to the park.

"It was a sincere demonstration of our commitment to the city," said Revo. "We wanted the lease extension because we're making a major commitment financially, and by sending E.J., and after four years of hard work, I wanted to protect my investment."

Parks Commission Chairman Nilan said, however, that Revo's commitment "was not as sincere as he would make it seem."

Nilan said the city wanted a commitment of a Class AA franchise before it would hand the park over to the Revo operation for three years.

Favors Class A

"The commission seemed to feel it didn't want to tie up Wahconah Park for three years because of problems in the past over use of the field by other teams," said Nilan. He said that although the commission asked for a three-year commitment by the Class AA team, he personally would favor a Class A team for the park, since its season (June 16 to Sept. 1) would be shorter than the Eastern League schedule, which begins the first week of April.

"A Single A team would solve all our problems," Nilan said. "It would be a better opportunity for the high schools to use the field."

In past years, high school baseball teams have had only limited access to the park because of interference with the Cubs' games and practices, and football teams were restricted to fewer games last year because of possible damage to the playing field.

Would welcome neighbors

Nilan said that the news of the purchase of the Little Falls team by Casey's group "didn't weigh in our decision" about turning down the three-year lease. But if it came down to leasing the park to Casey's group or Revo's, he said, "Who would we go to? We'd go to our own."

Narcise says there are no hard feelings between the Revo operation and Casey's, and that there was no real competition for the Little Falls team.

"We only would have bought the team if we could have moved it, so it was a dead issue before Mike Casey became involved," Narcise said.

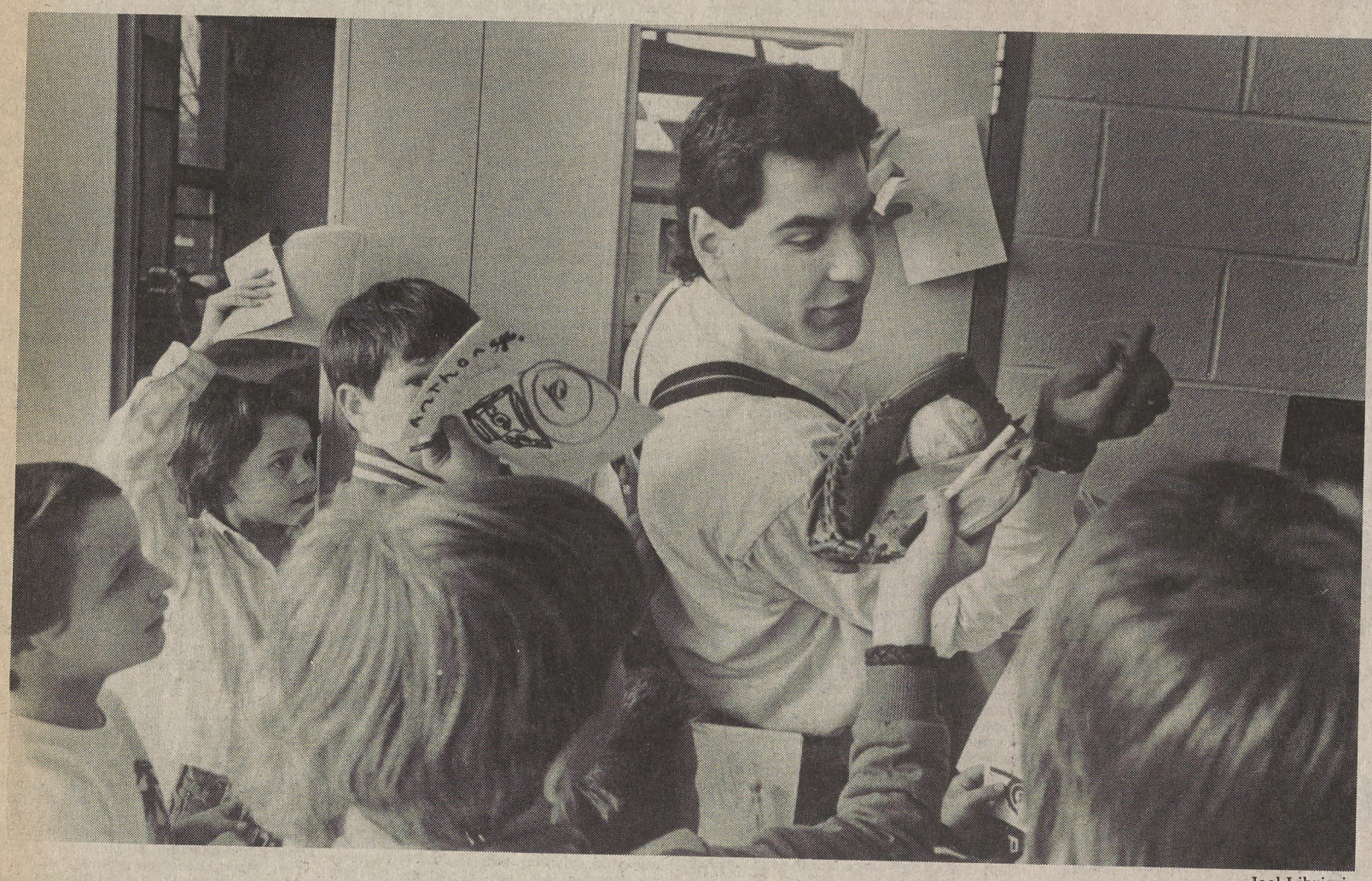
Revo says he has no further interest in buying a New York-Penn League team. That, coupled with the fact that he won't commit an Eastern League franchise here beyond one year, leaves open the question of why he needs a three-year lease on Wahconah Park.

"My plans are indefinite," said Revo, adding he has no hard feelings about the city's rejection of the three-year contract.

"It was a Revo brainstorm," Revo said. "I'm not upset with the city. You're always just a little disappointed when you don't get what you ask for."

3/24/88

78.



Joel Librizzi

MOBBED BY KIDS seeking autographs during a school visit is Pittsfield Cubs' General Manager E.J. Narcise, who credits community outreach programs — particularly involving children — for the team's increased attendance.

'Paid' average 912

Cubs' attendance: The numbers are up

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

E.J. Narcise isn't saying that numbers lie. He just says that, in the case of the Pittsfield Cubs' attendance figures, some numbers don't tell the whole truth.

By the official Eastern League numbers, the Cubs are last in attendance, having attracted 26,970 fans in 37 Wahconah Park dates. That's an average of 729 per date, up an average of 15 from the same time last year.

In paid attendance, however, the Cubs are averaging 912 admissions per date. That's a figure that's up 40 percent from the same point last season, and that's why Narcise, the Cubs' General Manager, is beaming with enthusiasm as the team prepares to open its longest homestand of the year tomorrow night.

"Taking into account that we had a lot of bad weather early, and considering the fact we've had 12 rainouts, I think it's been fabulous," Narcise says of the team's support. "There's light at the end of the tunnel."

* * * *

The announced attendance, the figure that appears in the daily box score, lists the actual number of people in the park, while the paid attendance reflects the total number of tickets purchased for a game, including season and sponsors' tickets that might not be used. Last year at this point, the Cubs were averaging 650 paid admissions per home date. In 1986, the average was just 435.

Narcise says the marked increase in that figure is a sign the team is attracting greater interest.

"For one thing, I think we've drawn more kids to the ballpark than

Attendance pleases Cubs' GM
Continued on Page D2

Bob McDonough

STEADY STREAM of paying customers has helped the Pittsfield Cubs show a 40 percent increase in paid attendance this season. The Cubs come home tomorrow for an 11-game home stand, the longest of the season.

79.

'Precision and Pageantry' scores a hit

5,000 people see Star of Indiana win drum corps competition

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Out in the darkened parking lot before their performance, members of the Star of Indiana drum corps marched over the rutted dirt surface toward the bright, white lights of Wahconah Park's field.

The evening's theme — "Precision and Pageantry" — was employed even there, as the hot pink-and-white-clad, 128-member unit moved smartly in perfect single file, around a deep puddle and alongside the silent parked cars, eyes always straight ahead. With no audience, and no judge's gaze upon them, unit leaders still scolded drummers for not moving quickly enough into formation.

Their regal performance for the empty cars was a harbinger for what they would do under the lights. The Star's program of tunes from George Gershwin' "Porgy and Bess" scored 89.3 out of a possible 100 points to win the evening's Drum Corps International competition. They were closely followed by the Cavaliers of Rosemont, Ill., who scored 88.7 with their selections from "Sweet Charity."

Standing ovations

The crowd of almost 5,000 appreciative fans was vocal in its approval of the three-hour program. It was one standing ovation after another as each of the seven competing corps filed off the field, carriage erect, arms stiffly crooked and eyes trained to the judges behind home plate.

The evening was one of glitter and glitz, as each color guard tried to outdo the other in costume changes, flag changes and exciting formations. One group, the all-female Ventures from Kirchner, Ontario, Canada, changed skirts four times, while waving various flags, some feather-trimmed, others just streamers of glitter. Ventures placed sixth.

Interestingly enough, the group which won the award for best color guard was from the all-male Cavaliers, which didn't change once from their basic black uniforms.

The Star won awards for both best high percussion and high brass. Winning the plaque for best drum major was Eric Gagnon of the fourth-place Boston Crusaders, the corps with the local connection. Color guard member Robin Hansen, a 1988 graduate of Taconic High School and member of the Crusaders since February, told WBRK radio — which broadcast the event live — that the performance was one of her best ever.

"To know people, and to know the crowd — that they're cheering for me — it's great," Hansen said. "It's a lot of hard work and it's all paying off."

Finishing in third place was Dutchboy, also from Kirchner, Ontario, which presented "A Tribute to Sinatra." The Blue Knights of Denver, Colo., finished in fifth, behind the Boston corps. Finishing last, behind the Ventures, was Beatrix', from Hilversum, Holland. It is the first Dutch corps in international DCI competition, and Pittsfield marked its first U.S. appearance.

Six judges marked the corps on their visual impression, marching, percussion and brass. Two of the judges stood on the field in front of the corps, making com-

'Precision'
Continued on Page B4

Leslie Noyes

BEATRIX' led by Drum Major Hans Kreisel, parades past nearly 5,000 spectators in their first U.S. appearance at Wahconah Park last night.

8-4-88

Seven top drum and bugle corps entered in Precision & Pageantry

PITTSFIELD — Seven top-ranked drum and bugle corps will show their skills Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Wahconah Park in the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee's Precision & Pageantry '88.

Each corps will perform for 11½ minutes in accordance with Drum Corps International (DCI) procedure. In order of appearance, they will be Beatrix' from Hillversum, Holland; Dutchboy from Ontario, Canada; Ventures from Ontario, Canada; Blue Knights from Denver, Colo.; Crusaders from Greater Boston; Cavaliers from Rosemont, Ill.; and Star of Indiana from Bloomington, Ind.

Beatrix' the first Dutch corps in international DCI competition, is making its first appearance in the United States this year. Founded in 1946 as a YMCA Fife and Drum band, it became the Beatrix' Drum and Bugle Corps in 1983, being named after Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Last year, the 100-member corps won the Netherlands national title. Its repertoire will include "Something's Coming," "Michelle" and "On Broadway."

Selections

The Dutchboy corps will perform a "Tribute to Sinatra," while the all-girl Ventures corps will perform excerpts from the Broadway musical "Sweet Charity." A variety of music from a march to a suite will be played by the Blue Knights, including "Turkey Trot." The Crusaders will perform "Symphony for Winds & Percussion"; music from the 1987 Broadway production of "Les Miserables"; and the signature number of the corps, "Conquest." The Crusaders roster includes Robin Hansen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hansen of 3 Acorn St. as a member of the color guard.

The all-male Cavaliers will perform Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite." Star of Indiana will complete the program with Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

Contest staff

Ray Pulver Jr. is the contest director. Others working on the event are John Locke and Matthew McKeever, corps housing coordinators; Bertha Boos, ticket sales coordinator; Margaret Rice, program book coordinator; James Brassard, stadium coordinator and master of ceremonies; Thomas Higgins, corps souvenir stands; Kenneth Wheeler, radio communications; Gene Martello, sponsor coordinator; James Kennedy, 50/50 raffle coordinator; and Beverly Chartier, publicity.

General admission tickets are $7 and may be purchased at any branch of the Berkshire County Savings Bank, Randall's Trophy Shop on Tyler Street, and the Parade Committee satellite office at 141 North St. Reserved grandstand tickets, at $8, may be purchased only at the Parade Committee satellite office Monday through Saturday from 11 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

Ticket prices increase $1 the day of the show and may be purchased at the satellite office from 11 to 4 p.m., with ticket sales transfering to Wahconah Park starting at 4:15 p.m. The gates will open at 6 p.m.

Council favors seeking increase in Wahconah Park lease price

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Though the city may have trouble keeping the Pittsfield Cubs in town at all, Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos said yesterday the city should seek a better deal from its Wahconah Park tenant — and his colleagues agreed.

At Arlos's request, the City Council asked the Park Commission to negotiate a five-year lease with "a professional baseball team." The choice of a team, Arlos said, should be put out to bid, with hopes that the city can get a tenant who will pay more than $1 for the lease, as the Cubs do now.

"Any government franchise should be open to the public," he said, adding later that the lease should be put out to bid "as a matter of public policy," though he had no idea if any baseball team would be interested.

Revo opposed

The Park Commission has already declared its intention to seek a three-to-five year lease with the Cubs, a move Cubs majority owner Stuart Revo opposes. The Cubs are said to be considering a move to Williamsport, Pa., or another city.

In a related matter, Arlos charged that the Cubs have gotten free use of the city's parks and recreation crews on five occasions for removing tarpaulins from the field. Councilor Bernard J. Goclowski, a member of the Park Commission, said city crews never worked overtime to remove the tarpaulins. Calling Arlos's charge "another fool's errand," he listed services the Cubs have given to the city, including letting Babe Ruth and American Legion teams use the lights at the park for free during night games.

In other business, the City Council postponed action on Arlos's request that it go on record opposing the purchase of the Stanley Club by the city for a culinary arts institute, restaurant and banquet facility. Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, who announced the idea last month, has not yet brought a formal proposal to the Council, and councilors, with Arlos's agreement, decided to table the matter.

Pro and con

They did, however, hear testimony for and against the idea. George W. Jervas, owner of the Bousquet Ski Area, said the city should not own a restaurant because it would be competing with the private sector. But Timothy Tillotson, owner of Mrs. Murphy's Chowder House, said he supports the idea because it would give "real-time experience to culinary arts students in Pittsfield schools."

Arlos said Taconic High School already has a kitchen that is probably the best in Western Massachusetts, and he charged that "the mayor and School Committee want their own private country club at the public's expense."

In another matter, the Council postponed opening a second front in the battle to close Partridge Road to Berkshire Mall traffic. The County Commission has given Lanesboro 30 days from the opening of the mall to implement a rerouting plan, but Timothy Sullivan, a Partridge Road resident, told councilors they have the option of setting a "parallel process" in motion — setting a public hearing date with a 90-day waiting period and then sending the state a proposal to close the road.

The Council, with Arlos and James R. McCaffrey dissenting, put Sullivan's suggestion aside for now in order to see first how the commissioners' plan works. 9-14-88

City sends Revo 2 lease proposals

Baseball offers are for 1 or 3 years

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — One day after Stuart Revo aligned his Double-A baseball club with the Seattle Mariners, the city of Pittsfield took steps toward keeping Revo's team at Wahconah Park.

City Solicitor Michael McCarthy, in a letter mailed yesterday afternoon, proposed two alternatives for a 1989 lease that would allow Revo the use of the park to field an Eastern League club.

Revo operated the Pittsfield Cubs for the past four seasons. The Chicago Cubs last month withdrew their player development contract and relocated their Double-A franchise in Charlotte, N.C. Revo and Mariners' Player Development Director Brian Granger both said Monday that they are, in Revo's words, "virtually certain to be working together" next season. But Revo's Wahconah Park lease expired Sept. 9, and no negotiations have been held regarding an agreement for next season.

Revo has acknowledged he's exploring other potential playing sites, including Binghamton, N.Y., and Old Orchard Beach, Maine. He has been considering a 1990 lease with Binghamton for several weeks but has not yet responded to it, "and formally, maybe I never will," he said last night.

City's two proposals

McCarthy's letter, on behalf of the Parks Commission, yesterday outlined both a three-year proposal and a one-year deal with the same $1 fee Revo has paid the past four years. No final draft has been made of either proposal, but both were drawn up after meetings involving McCarthy, Parks Commission Chairman Roger Sloper, and commission member Clifford Nilan.

Nilan, formerly Parks Commision chairman, helped negotiate leases with Revo's Cubs in the past. McCarthy's letter came in response to an Oct. 18 communication in which Revo asked the city to submit a formal lease proposal.

The three-year proposal includes no formal lease fee but a $10,000 annual "gratuitous contribution" by the club for improvements to Wahconah Park. The proposal is vaguely similar to one Revo submitted — and the Parks Commission rejected — last April. At that time, Revo sought a provision whereby he could sublet the park or field a team in a lower league. Yesterday's proposal by the city calls for Revo's club to guarantee "[a] Double A baseball team as a tenant."

The proposed one-year agreement, with the $1 lease, includes a provision by which the club would provide "a Pittsfield Police officer for the duration of all games." Policemen on duty at high school sports events are currently paid $18 an hour, with a three-hour minimum charge. For 70 Eastern League home games, the team would have to pay a minimum of $3,780 per year.

Revo not wild about proposals

Revo's initial reaction to the proposals was lukewarm.

"It's difficult to comment without actually seeing a lease," the Pittsfield franchise owner said from his office in New York. "My gut reaction is that I would not be agreeable to either alternative as they are written now, but I'm certainly willing to discuss them.

"As for the first alternative [the proposed three-year agreement], I'd prefer to go back and start negotiating with the offer we made at the start of the 1988 season," Revo said. "As for the second [the one-year], it seems the city is intent on increasing our fee in some form, whether it be a higher rent, through paying for police, or whatever."

Revo said he didn't feel the city "fully responded" to his Oct. 18 letter. In that communication, he expressed concern that statements by city officials have "poisoned the well," and might make it difficult to generate support for the club next year. The letter referred to statements made by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos that Revo had acted "in bad faith" by negotiating with other cities "behind the back" of the Pittsfield community.

Arlos blasts new proposals

Arlos had said he thought the city should seek a rental fee of at least $5,000 for the park. The Council last month backed an Arlos petition that the Parks Commission, which negotiates the lease, attempt to procure a multi-year agreement for at least a higher rental fee than what Revo paid last year. The one-year proposal the city has now submitted obviously rebukes that petition, and that sparked a fiery reaction from Arlos yesterday.

"I think this is utterly absurd, and it's certainly not in the best interests of the city of Pittsfield," he said. "I don't see why the city should back down."

McCarthy said the city isn't backing down.

"This is the first real substantive

10-27-88

Baseball lease
Continued on Page D2

Baseball lease

Continued from Page D1

proposal in these negotiations," McCarthy said, "so there isn't anything to back down from. We feel these proposals are the best for both sides given the current circumstances."

"The bottom line is that we want professional baseball at Wahconah Park," said Nilan. "In a way, he's [Revo] got us where he wants us. To some extent, we have to give him what he wants, or we won't have baseball."

The lease proposals were mailed a day after a group of baseball fans presented the Council with a petition to keep baseball in Pittsfield, and not to pursue "unattainable demands" in negotiations with a team. Ellen Meunier of 12 State St., who spearheaded the petition drive, said the group collected 406 signatures, 317 of them from Pittsfield residents.

Other provisions 10-27-88

Other provisions in the one-year lease proposal include one by which the Cubs would hire a maintenance worker to be approved by the Parks Commission and supervised by a city maintenance employee. The Cubs had a maintenance employee in the past, but that employee did not come under city supervision.

Seven drum corps to play in July 4 parade preview

PITTSFIELD — A "Parade Preview Spectacular" will be presented by the Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade Committee as the opening event of the Independence Day weekend.

The musical variety presentation will begin July 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Wahconah Park and feature seven marching musical units that will appear in the next morning's parade.

Scheduled to perform their entire field shows are:

The Sunrisers Senior Drum and Bugle Corps from the New York/New Jersey area, the reigning Drum Corps Associates Senior World Champion; The Westshoremen Senior Drum and Bugle Corps from Harrisburg, Pa., which is making its first New England appearance in nearly 10 years, and the Westchester Brassmen Senior Drum and Bugle Corps from Harrison, N.Y.

Also, the Farjardo Junior Drum and Bugle Corps from Bronx, N.Y.; the Ventures from Kitchner, Ontario, the reigning Drums Corps International Class A Champion ; the Pipes and Drums of the New York State Courts from Bellerose, N.Y., and one of the top marching bands in the Midwest, which has appeared in every major parade in the country, the Warren Junior Military Band of Youngstown, Ohio, also known as "The Squires."

The Warren group is a concert band as well as a marching band and will present both its concert show and its field show.

This will be the first time in many years that top senior drum corps have performed in Pittsfield, with the Sunrisers and the Westshoremen making their debut, along with the Warren Junior Military Band.

General admission tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children under 12 and senior citizens. They may be purchased at the committee's satellite office at 141 North St., in the former Building 451 store, Monday through Saturday from 11 to 4 and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9. They may also be purchased at Randall's Trophy Shop at 224 Tyler St.

Wahconah Park lease still on hold

Revo hopes to open talks within next two weeks

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Stuart Revo said yesterday he's "encouraged" by a weekend telephone conversation with Pittsfield City Councilor James R. McCaffrey. Yet he's "disheartened by some of the things that have happened over the last 30 days."

Revo, the New York businessman who owns Pittsfield's professional baseball franchise, said yesterday he will journey to the Berkshires "either next week or the week after" to begin negotiating on a lease for the use of Wahconah Park for the 1989 season.

Revo, whose Pittsfield Cubs played at Wahconah Park the last four seasons, said that he will not be able to meet with city officials this week but that he still "wants to get on with the negotiations as soon as possible."

Until last weekend, there had been no direct contact between Revo and the city since mid-September. But at an open meeting Thursday night, McCaffrey offered to serve as a "liaison" between the city and Revo, whose franchise lost its name and affiliation when the Chicago Cubs decided to relocate their Double-A team in Charlotte, N.C., next season.

Revo has not yet signed a player development contract with a team for the 1989 campaign. The Seattle Mariners and California Angels are the big-league teams without Double-A working agreements for next season.

McCaffrey contacted him and offered to set up meetings with city officials at Revo's convenience.

"He seemed receptive," McCaffrey said of the conversation. "He said he was getting some negative vibes from the city, but I told him that, yes, we do want his team here. We do want a club."

Revo's first negative vibes came from the Sept. 13 meeting of the City Council, when that body suggested that the Parks Commission, which negotiates the Wahconah Park lease, seek an agreement for a longer term than the one-year lease Revo had this past season — and wants again. At that same meeting, Councilor Peter G. Arlos suggested the ballpark be put "out to bid," in an effort to attract another minor-league team if negotiations with Revo fell through.

The next day, Revo wrote a letter to Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, expressing his "increasing concern" over the city's attitude toward the club. And Eastern League president Charles Eshbach wrote a letter to Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi, explaining that, under the territorial rules of the National Association of Baseball Clubs, Revo's franchise has rights to Wahconah Park and the city cannot seek another team.

Both those letters were referred to the office of City Solicitor Michael J. McCarthy, who is still considering the alternatives. In a letter dated Thursday, he asked Eshbach to send a copy of the national association rules, to assist in "eliminating any misunderstandings," regarding the relationship between the league and the city. And in a letter dated Friday, McCarthy asked Revo to begin negotiations on the Wahconah Park lease.

"The [Parks] Commission," the letter read, "shares your desire to proceed quickly."

Revo had not received a copy of the letter as of yesterday but said he was "encouraged by the efforts of people [in Pittsfield] to move this thing forward."

He said he was also encouraged by the conversation with McCaffrey.

"He was very positive," Revo said. "The trouble is, from where I'm sitting, it's hard to tell whether he's speaking on behalf of a majority of the Council or not.

"I've really become concerned that a lot of what's been said over the last 30 days may have poisoned the atmosphere toward baseball. I'm worried that it might have done some harm, that it might make it dificult for us to do even as well there as we have."

The bottom line

The Cubs finished last in the Eastern League in attendance the last two seasons.

"We're a marginal operation, to say the least," Revo said, "and I'm worried that what's happened between the city and us might hurt us on our bottom line."

Revo, who has acknowledged seeking alternatives to playing in Pittsfield, emphasized he has made "no commitment" to any other city.

"I know there are a lot of rumors," said Revo, who confirmed he has talked to officials in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and has been considering a 1990 lease with Binghamton, N.Y. "But I still want to focus my attention toward Pittsfield."

"I want to sit down and start talking with people there as soon as I can," he added, "and I will."

10-18-88

Mariners would be E.L. team here in '89

City's baseball fate still not set

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

If there is an Eastern League baseball team in Pittsfield next season, it will almost surely be an affiliate of the Seattle Mariners.

Pittsfield franchise owner Stuart Revo and Mariners Player Development Director Brian Granger both said yesterday that they are, in Revo's words, "virtually certain to be working together" for the 1989 season. Yet there have still been no negotiations held — and none are scheduled — between Revo and Pittsfield city officials over a lease for the team to play at Wahconah Park.

The apparent bonding of Revo and the Mariners comes nearly six weeks after the Chicago Cubs announced they were terminating their working agreement with Revo and relocating their Double-A club to Charlotte, N.C., of the Southern League. Revo had operated the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park for the last four seasons.

Revo and Granger spoke via telephone for about an hour yesterday afternoon.

"I hadn't talked to him at all before that," Revo said from his office in New York. "But we discussed plans for next year, and he seemed very positive. We may not sign [a Player Development Contract] until the winter meetings [in early December], but I'd say we're pretty well set."

"I can't say there's a verbal agreement as such," Granger said from his Seattle office, "but we both feel that we'll be together next year."

Paired practically by default

Since there are 26 major league teams, and 26 franchises on the Double-A level on the National Association of Baseball League, each franchise owner is assured of getting a major-league affiliation. The only teams that have not signed Player Development Contracts for the 1989 season are Seattle and the California Angels. Though the Angels have not announced they are renewing their PDC with Midland, Texas, of the Texas League, an organization spokesman said yesterday that the team is almost certain to return there next season.

Mariners, Revo teamed 10-26-88
Continued on Page D2

Mariners, Revo teamed for 1989

Continued from Page D1

That means that the Mariners and Revo are paired almost by default.

"That may be true," said Revo, "but we're not looking at it that way, and we didn't even talk about that today."

"I realize people could see it that way [as being a default agreement]," said Granger, "but we don't. I've talked to a lot of baseball people about Stuart Revo, he has a good reputation, and I'm looking forward to working with him. I appreciate what he's done, and what he's tried to do there [in Pittsfield]."

If Revo and the Mariners finalize an agreement, it would mark the second straight year Seattle has had an Eastern League affiliate. This past season, the Vermont Mariners finished second during the regular season, then eliminated the Pittsfield Cubs in the league playoffs. Vermont lost to the Albany-Colonie Yankees in the championship series.

"I think they're an up-and-coming organization," Revo said of the Mariners, "and [Granger] assured me they'd have a competitive team next season. I hope they're as competitive as they were this year. Heck, they beat us."

Vermont was the only Seattle farm team to make the playoffs, yet the Mariners boast some prize minor-league prospects. Ken Griffey Jr., the nation's No. 1 overall draft choice in 1987, spent the second half of this season with Vermont. And Seattle recently signed its first-round 1988 choice, first baseman Tino Martinez, who played with the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic team.

"[Griffey] didn't spend much time at the Double-A level," Granger said, "so it's not beyond the realm of possibility he'll be back there. Martinez hasn't played a day of pro ball yet, so it's hard to tell where he'll be starting. We don't really know where either of them will be at this time."

The Pittsfield situation

For that matter, there is no certainty where the team will be. Revo is seeking a 1989 Wahconah Park lease similar to the one-year, $1 agreement that expired Sept. 9, but the City Council has instructed the Parks Commission, which negotiates the lease, to seek a multi-year deal. And City Councilor Peter G. Arlos has repeatedly said he thinks the city should get a minimum of $5,000 for use of the park.

Granger said that the Mariners will not get involved in a question over where the team is located.

"That's not really our jurisdiction," he said. "Our agreement would be strictly with the club."

Granger, who is entering his first year as Mariners' farm director, seemed to have mixed emotions about a placing a team in Pittsfield.

"From what I understand, the ballpark's in decent shape," he said, "and the [home] clubhouse facilities are good.

"I also understand that players have had trouble finding affordable housing there in the past," he added, "and that attendance hasn't been very good. Certainly, we'd like to have our players play in a place where there is good support from the community."

The Pittsfield Cubs were last in Eastern League attendance in each of the past two seasons.

Revo has said he is seeking alternative homes for his franchise in the event that any negotiations with Pittsfield are unsuccessful. He has confirmed talking with officials in both Binghamton, N.Y., and old Orchard Beach, Maine.

As for the Pittsfield negotiations, Revo said he has answered a letter from Pittsfield City Solicitor Michael McCarthy last week, but has not had other contact with city officials other than a telephone conversation with City Councilor James McCaffrey some 10 days ago. The communication from McCarthy, dated Oct. 14, asked what lease terms Revo would be interested in. In his response, Revo asked that the city submit a formal lease proposal.

"They wrote me a letter asking questions, and I replied and answered those questions," Revo said last night. "As far as I can see, the ball's back in their court."

10-26-88

Baseball negotiating session today

Continued from Page D1

set yet as far as any [Hagerstown] move goes, but if there is a move, we still want to have a team."

Revo would not say that Williamsport is the front-runner in the bidding for his ball club.

"There are plenty of [communities] out there that want us," Revo said. "I believe a lot of people in Pittsfield want us, too, but I'd feel better if everyone who said they wanted would buy a season ticket."

A poisoned well?

Revo has expressed concern that criticism of him by city officials — most notably City Councilor Peter G. Arlos — may have hurt lease negotiations, may have "poisoned the well" in Pittsfield, and could make the team "a tough sell" to Pittsfield fans next season.

"That's an issue we will address [today]," Revo said. "But that's just one issue. There are a number of issues as well, and that's why we want to move the negotiating process forward."

The city has offered a lease proposal with two alternatives. One would be a three-year deal, with the club to pay a $10,000 "gratuity" toward Wahconah Park improvements. The other would be a one-year agreement, with the same $1 rental fee Revo has paid in the past. That proposal, however, would require the club to pay for police security at all home games, a minimum expense of $3,780.

Revo has countered with an offer for a three-year deal and a rental fee of $5,000. His proposal, however, would include an option for the club to terminate the agreement after one season, and would guarantee a Double-A team for just one season.

Meanwhile, Arlos yesterday filed a City Council petition that requests the lease include a number of other provisions. Arlos's proposed lease would be for one year and would include the councilor's earlier petition that Revo surrender his territorial rights to Wahconah Park after the 1989 season. It also proposes that the the Fourth of July Parade Committee get a 50 pecent share of concession receipts from nights when it used the park.

The Parade Committee sponsors the annual Precision and Pageantry drum corps show and has asked the Parks Commission to include a lease provision that would include a compromise on concessions. The Cubs have operated the concesssions for that event in the past, and Narcise estimated that sales this year grossed the club some $6,000.

11-18-88

city officials to negotiate today

may clarify Pittsfield's fuzzy baseball future

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The session, arranged earlier this week by Narcise, will be the first face-to-face negotiations between the parties. The meeting follows about a month of mail negotiations between Revo and McCarthy.

"I'm not going into the meeting negative. I'm not going in positive. I'm not going in with any preconceptions whatsoever," Revo said yesterday. "I'm going in with an open mind, and hopefully everybody else will, too."

Revo's one-year, $1 lease on the park expired Sept. 9. The New York businessman operated the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park for the past four seasons. The Chicago Cubs have relocated their Double-A team in Charlotte, N.C., for 1989. Revo's team, wherever it plays, will be an affiliate of the Seattle Mariners next season.

Today's negotiating meeting comes at what could be a crucial time for both sides. The Eastern League meetings are scheduled to open Monday, Nov. 21, at Newark, N.J., with the Baseball Winter Meetings to follow in Atlanta beginning Dec. 4.

"That [the Eastern League meeting] is not a real hard-fast deadline for us to decide what we're doing," Revo said, "but it's very important. I'm sure I'll be called upon to give a pretty good account of whether I think I can successfully operate a ball club in Pittsfield next year, and [today's] meeting could give an indication of that.

"If all goes well, then I'm sure we'll meet again," Revo continued. "If it doesn't go well — if they come in and say they won't give us this, they won't do that — then who knows? Maybe this meeting will be the last one."

Negotiations elsewhere

As face-to-face negotiations begin here, Revo is also continuing talks with other cities. Among the communities trying to attract Revo and his ball club are Binghamton, N.Y., Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and Williamsport, Pa.

Narcise said earlier this week that Binghamton, which is building a stadium for the 1990 season, "is not a prime consideration right now."

Old Orchard Beach town manager Jerome Plant said yesterday he has "had continuing discussions, but no negotiations," with Revo. That Maine coastal community, which lost its Triple-A team to Scranton, Pa., after the 1988 season, is in the process of selling its municipally owned stadium, called The Ballpark.

Williamsport may be emerging as a leading alternative. The Eastern League Williamsport Bills were sold last month to a Maryland-based group, which is seeking to move the club to Hagerstown, Md. A path for that move was cleared last week, when the Carolina League tentatively approved a move by the Hagerstown Class A team to Fredericksburg, Va. That move, if it is made, could open a path for Revo to go to Williamsport.

"I'm not prepared to say anything about Williamsport," Revo said. "But I will stand by what I've said earlier: We are very actively pursuing other alternatives — and that [Williamsport] certainly is one of them."

Williamsport has spent some $2.5 million over the past two years on renovations at its stadium, Bowman Field, said stadium commissioner William Pickelner.

"We think we have a facility as nice as any in the Eastern League," Pickelner added. "We're looking to get somebody, whether it be Revo's team or somebody else. Nothing's been

Baseball negotiations
Continued on Page D2

11/18/88

Baseball negotiating session today

Continued from Page D1

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11-18-88

Revo, city officials to negotiate today

Session may clarify Pittsfield's fuzzy baseball future

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

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Baseball negotiations
Continued on Page D2

11/18/88

Cubs won't return to Pittsfield

Franchise now needs new tenant

By Bill Everhart
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Chicago Cubs yesterday announced they will not renew their working agreement with the Pittsfield Cubs, effectively leaving the city with an Eastern League franchise but no ballplayers to put on the field.

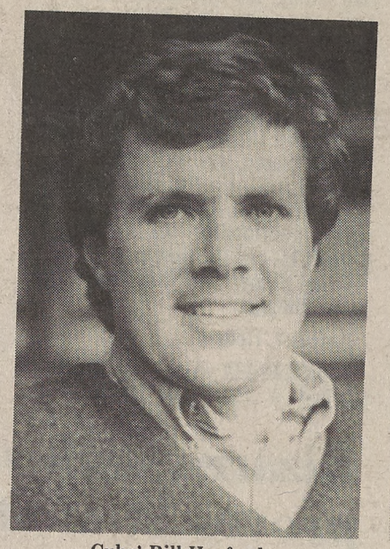
The announcement was not entirely unexpected as the Cub organization has expressed unhappiness with attendance at Wahconah Park during all four years its Class AA team has played in Pittsfield. Stuart Revo, the majority owner of the Pittsfield franchise, expressed hope that the Cubs, who have not entered a working agreement with another city, could be persuaded to return to Pittsfield, but that option seems unlikely.

"In the past three years we have had two Eastern League MVPs, and this year we had the top three hitters in the league," Bill Harford, Chicago's director of minor league operations, said yesterday afternoon. "We had a no-hitter thrown at the ballpark this season, we made the playoffs three years in a row and still we drew around 50,000 each year. The team had some faithful fans, and the organization and players appreciated them, but I guess there just weren't enough of them."

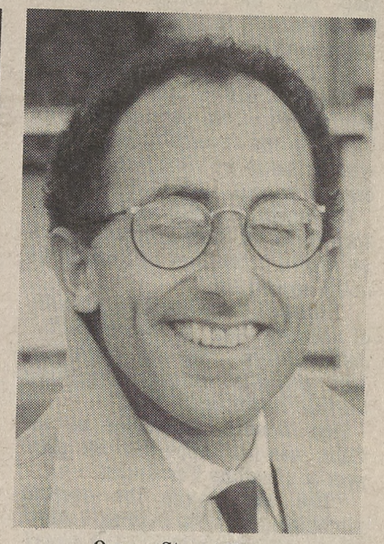
The Cubs have finished last in the Eastern League in attendance the last two years. In 1987, they had the worst Class AA attendance in the country with a team that had the best won-lost record in all of Class AA. Attendance in Class AA in 1987 (encompassing the Eastern League, the Southern League and the Texas League) averaged 150,597 fans per city.

Major league organizations are required by the National Association of Baseball to announce whether they will renew working agreements with their minor league affiliates for the following season by September 15, or the agreements will be renewed automatically. The Chicago organization has not determined where it's Class AA team will play next season.

"We would consider staying with the Eastern League and with Mr. Revo, if he was in a better situation for us," said Gordon Goldsberry, Chicago's vice president of minor leagues and scouting, indicating the Chicago organization is satisfied with local management, but not with the locale.



Cubs' Bill Harford
'We have a business to run'



Owner Stuart Revo
'We wish we drew more'

"We would like to have them back. We have had a wonderful relationship with the Cubs," said Revo. "I never like to change horses, especially when you are having a good ride."

City, Revo at odds

It has been rumored that Revo's group has considered moving the franchise to Binghamton, N.Y., and Williamsport, Pa., and Revo said yesterday he has been forced to at least explore his options "because of statements of certain members of the City Council." The Council has discussed asking the Cubs to sign a three-to-five year lease agreement, instead of the one-year agreement the team has operated under, and Tuesday night proposed putting the ballpark lease out to bid.

"I feel I should have been addressed more directly," said Revo of the Council's recent proposals. "I want to sit down with the Council and see where we are, and I want to do it sooner rather than later. I can't wait until spring and then have the city demand a five-year lease. If we can sit down and talk, I don't think there will be an impasse."

Revo admits he is perplexed by the consistently poor attendance at Wahconah Park. From a high of 60,585 in 1985, when the team was a novelty, the Cubs drew 47,709 in 1986 and 50,551 in 1987. A good June and July boosted the Cubs to 56,944 this season.

"Obviously we wish we drew more," said Revo. "We promoted very actively this year and opened ticket bureaus in north and south Berkshire County. And our attendance in August was actually down from 1987."

"We want our players to play before large, enthusiastic crowds, that's part of their development process," said Goldsberry. "We just didn't see that in Pittsfield."

Attendance at Wahconah Park has been a problem for much of Pittsfield's on-again, off-again Eastern League history. A high of 79,642 was reached with the Pittsfield Red Sox in 1969, but attendance never exceeded 49,895 during the tenure of the Senators, Rangers and Berkshire Brewers from 1970 through 1976. Attendance reached a low of 23,561 in 1976, after which baseball left Pittsfield until the Cubs arrived in 1985.

Though poor attendance was the main reason for Chicago's decision not to renew the working agreement, Harford also said the local housing situation was a contributing factor. Players, particularly those with families, have complained for

Cubs depart
Continued on Page D8

Bob McDonough

HAPPIER DAYS for the Pittsfield Cubs were reflected in this picture taken during the 1988 Opening Day parade through downtown Pittsfield in April. The Cubs announced yesterday they will not return in 1989.

9-15-88

Pittsfield Cubs highlights

Highlights of the Cubs' four-year stay in Pittsfield:

1984

Dec. 4: Cubs confirm they're coming to Pittsfield.

1985

Jan. 4: Mayor Charles Smith signs 1-year Wahconah Park lease agreement with franchise general manager and part owner Lawrence Revo, welcoming Cubs to Pittsfield.

April 12: Cubs play their first game ever in Albany, losing 5-4 before 5,842 fans in 40-degree weather.

April 15: Cubs draw 4,095 to home opener, winning 7-6 on Rick Rembielak's RBI double in the ninth inning. Downtown parade and opening game taped by "Today" Show for segment hosted by Gene Shalit the next morning.

June 8: Gary Parmenter pitches seven-inning no-hitter in Nashua, N.H.

Aug. 1: Johnny Abrego pitches seven-inning no-hitter in Nashua.

First-year attendance: 60,585; Record: 59-79. Finish: 7th.

1986

Jan. 30: Chicago GM Dallas Green visits Hot Stove program at Berkshire Hilton.

April 15: Home opener draws 2,247, Cubs win in extra innings.

July 14: Pittsfield outfielder Gary Varsho is MVP in 6-1 All-Star Game win.

July 22: George Scott Night draws 1,964 fans.

Aug. 3: Wahconah Park rain-delayed double-header with Vermont Reds lasts 6 hours, 48 minutes and goes until 3:02 a.m.

Sept. 1: Pittsfield outfielder Rafael Palmeiro named Eastern League MVP.

Sept. 3: Rolando Roomes' dramatic 10th-inning homer gives Cubs 9-7 playoff win over Vermont Reds.

December: Jim Essian named new Cubs' manager.

Second-year attendance: 47,709; Record: 76-64; Finish: 3rd.

1987

April 20: Opening day draws 2,251 for 2-1 win over Bills.

Aug. 8: Cubs run team record win streak to 15 games.

Aug. 23: Comedian Bill Murray surprises fans with visit to Wahconah Park.

Aug. 24: Cubs clinch Pittsfield's first Eastern League regular-season pennant since 1973.

Sept. 3: Pittsfield first baseman Mark Grace named Eastern League MVP.

Third-year attendance: 51,551; Record: 87-51; Finish: 1st.

1988

Jan. 22: E.J. Narcise named Cubs' new general manager.

April 18: Home opener is rained out after downtown parade.

June 24: "Read Like A Pro Night" attracts 3,785 fans to Wahconah Park.

July 8: Kris Roth pitches nine-inning no-hitter, beating Harrisburg 3-0.

Aug. 21: Reliever Dean Wilkins sets Eastern League record with 25th save.

Sept. 1: Outfielder Jerome Walton crowned Eastern League batting champ.

Sept. 14: Chicago Cubs announce the end of their affiliation with Pittsfield.

Fourth-year attendance: 56,944; Record: 75-63; Finish: 3rd.

D8

85.

Cubs depart

Continued from Page D1

four years about the difficulty of finding adequate housing.

What about Casey's group?

Yesterday's news has no effect on the plans of Dalton's Mike Casey, who owns the Little Falls, N.Y., franchise of the New York-Penn League with two Pittsfield partners. Casey has been exploring his options for next year because of his reluctance to sign a three-year lease agreement with Little Falls, as requested by city officials there.

"As long as Stuart Revo has an Eastern League franchise in Pittsfield it's their city," Casey said last night. If Revo's group were to move the Eastern League franchise out of Pittsfield, however, the door would be open for Casey's group.

"This is a sad day for the community," City Councilor James McCaffrey, an ardent Cub booster, said last night. "Our financial support of the team is really very modest and the youth of the city in particular enjoy having the team here. The new general manager [E.J. Narcise] has initiated some innovative programs that I know he wants to continue. I hope we can get another team in here."

Mariners, Royals, O's shopping

Should local management work out a lease agreement with the city for 1989, it will have to sign a working agreement with another major league team. The Seattle Mariners, who were affiliated with Burlington, Vt., of the Eastern League this past season, are currently without an agreement because the Burlington franchise has moved to Canton, Ohio, and signed an agreement with the Cleveland Indians.

The Kansas City Royals and Baltimore Orioles are also looking for Class AA franchises, having ended agreements with Memphis, Tenn., and Charlotte, N.C., respectively, of the Southern League.

"The goals and values we had in 1988 will be the same in 1989," said Narcise last night. "The faces will change, but even if the Cubs planned to return here there could be as many as 24 new players. If the Mariners are here next year, or the Orioles or the Royals or whomever, we'll still have players out in the community, going to the schools and visiting the Little Leagues. Our approach isn't going to change."

Cubs happy with city, Revo

Chicago officials emphasized that they had no complaints with city officials or with Cubs' management.

"We're appreciative of everything the city did for us," said Harford. "We like Stuart Revo and we think E.J. [Narcise] did a great job. But we have a business to run, and a development program to run, and we feel we can do it better.

"There are 15 players in Chicago who came through Pittsfield, and the disturbing thing is the town just didn't want to come out and see these kids," added Harford. "I don't think Pittsfield appreciated what it had."

9-15-88

Stuart Revo
'Mr. Arlos can go to hell'

11-5-88

Revo, Arlos at odds over city baseball talks

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Stuart Revo has replied in kind to a lease proposal from the City of Pittsfield, but the owner of Pittsfield's professional baseball franchise yesterday replied unkindly to statements made by City Councilor Peter G. Arlos, who is petitioning the council to amend the lease it has offered Revo for the use of Wahconah Park.

Revo, who operated the Pittsfield Cubs Eastern League club at Wahconah Park for the past four seasons, responded to an Oct. 26 letter from Michael McCarthy in which the Pittsfield City Solicitor outlined two alternative lease proposals.

"I just asked for clarification of some points," Revo said yesterday. "There were some things I just wasn't clear about."

Revo was very clear, however, in his response to Arlos, saying the outspoken City Councilor "can go to hell."

Arlos, who previously criticized the club owner for negotiating the lease "in bad faith," has filed a Council petition asking that the second lease alternative — a proposed one-year agreement — include a provision by which Revo's club would "relinquish any and all rights to Wahconah Park and its territory" after the 1989 season. Arlos's petition says the amendment would ensure that the "1990 baseball season will not be poisoned by behind-the-back maneuvers and stalling tactics" that block interested teams from negotiating with the city. Arlos has criticized Revo for negotiating with other communities — most notably Binghamton, N.Y. — before bargaining with Pittsfield.

Arlos' petition will come up for a vote at a City Council meeting Nov. 22.

The gloves come off

"If that passes, I can promise that I won't sign any lease with the city," said Revo, speaking by telephone from his office in New

Revo, Arlos trade jabs
Continued on Page D3

Revo, Arlos trade jabs

Continued from Page D1

York City. "That whole idea is just ridiculous.

"As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Arlos can go to hell," said Revo. "I've restrained my comments on Mr. Arlos's attacks on me until now, but I'm getting very sick of his attacks on me. All he's doing is making it very, very difficult for reasonable people to conduct reasonable negotiations.

"I just don't think this is a very smart thing for him to do," Revo added. "It doesn't seem like he is very smart. This man is a loose cannon up on deck, and it's a pity the city hasn't gotten him under control before now. As far as I can tell, it's only his opinion — one man's opinion — so I'm not real worried about it. I'm just getting sick of his opinions."

McCaffrey also blasts Arlos

City Councilor James R. McCaffrey, who has volunteered to act as a liaison between Revo and the city, said last night he's not worried about the amendment's passage, either.

"It'll be voted down 10-1," said McCaffrey. "He [Arlos] is way off base this time. Pete thinks that there are professional baseball teams out there lining up to come in here. He thinks there's one at the Lenox border and another at the Lanesboro border. But that's not the way it is. It's not easy to attract a team in the first place, and now that we've got one, it's something that we want to keep. I'm just afraid that what Pete's doing will hurt our chances to do that."

Arlos, in a press release, charged that Revo has "wasted the time of city officials and, more importantly, the dedicated baseball fans," in the negotiations, which were dormant until McCarthy informed Revo of the city's lease proposals in his Oct. 26 letter. The lease for Revo's team, which will probably be an affiliate of the Seattle Mariners next season, expired Sept. 9.

Revo essentially sought to renew the one-year lease, which called for a fee of $1, while the city originaly sought a three-year deal, and Arlos urged a rental fee of at least $5,000. The city has offered Revo a three-year alternative, with a $10,000 "gratuity payment" for use on Wahconah Park, and a one-year, $1 deal that would also, however, include the cost of providing police protection. Over a season, that would cost Revo a minimum of $3,780.

Revo, in his letter to McCarthy, said the proposals were "not responsive" to the club's needs, but that he would "consider [the] proposal carefully with a view toward providing [the city] with a detailed answer and reasonable counter-offer."

Playing 'a martyr'

Arlos, meanwhile, charged that Revo "sits at home playing the role of the martyr and laughing in the face of the taxpayers."

In a telephone interview yesterday, Arlos said Revo "knows he has us where he wants us" in lease negotiations. Arlos, in a Sept. 13 Council meeting, proposed putting Wahconah Park "out to bid," in an effort to land another team. Yet no other team can express an interest in coming to Pittsfield as long as Revo's franchise holds Pittsfield's "territorial rights" under the rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues.

"He knows we have to give him what he wants, or we won't have baseball next year," Arlos continued. "He's playing the role of the Godfather — he's making us an offer we can't refuse. My amendment would put us on record as giving him what he wants, but it would ensure the city would not be placed in this position in the future."

McCaffrey, however, says Pittsfield should be happy just to have baseball in its future at all, and he feels there's nothing wrong with agreeing to a lease on Revo's terms.

"I want to go on record right now as saying we should offer him the same lease he's had in the past," McCaffrey said. "Here we've got something that a lot of people enjoy, that a lot of people are proud of, and we're trying to nickle and dime it to death. I just don't think it's right. I want baseball here, I want Mr. Revo's team here, and I've told him that. I just hope he listens to this City Councilor as much as he hears another one [Arlos]."

Revo has just about a month to nail down his lease with the city and the player-development contract with the Mariners. The generally accepted deadline is the baseball winter meetings, which open Dec. 5 in Atlanta.

Casey signs in Little Falls

As the latest controversy erupted over the Pittsfield lease, a Berkshire-based group yesterday signed a baseball lease in Little Falls, N.Y.

Dalton businessman Michael Casey and Pittsfield partners Francis Devanny and Richard Murphy, owners of the Little Falls, N.Y., Mets of the Class-A New York-Penn League, formally agreed to a one-year lease with Little Falls Mayor Michael Izzo. The one-year deal calls for a rental fee of $6,300, but that includes utilities, maintenance, groundskeeping, and the lease of an office in City Hall, Casey said. The city also plans to make some $50,000 in improvements at the field, Casey said.

"Basically, they've made a commitment to us, and we're responding with a commitment to them," said Casey, who will notify the other New York-Penn League owners of his agreement today at a league meeting in Auburn, N.Y. "We're all set and all ready to go."

The Little Falls club is the team Arlos and other Pittsfield city officials saw as an alternative to Revo's franchise. Arlos has said he would like to see Pittsfield get a professional team with local ownership. Under the National Association rules, however, neither the city nor Casey's group could negotiate a deal as long as Revo holds the territorial rights.

11-5-88

86.

Cubs' farm team off to Charlotte

By Carol Sliwa
Berkshire Eagle Staff

The Pittsfield Cubs — the Chicago Cubs' Double-A farm team for the last four years — will become the Charlotte (N.C.) Knights next year, The Eagle learned late last night.

Spencer Stolpen, vice president and legal counsel of the Charlotte franchise, said only the "formality" of signing the player development contract (PDC) stood in the way of the agreement being finalized.

"We have a letter of understanding with Chicago," said Stolpen, "that their Double-A franchise will play here for the next two years. The letter indicated we will be receiving the PDC."

The Charlotte franchise, a member of the 10-team Southern League, Wednesday sent notice of the termination of its PDC with the Baltimore Orioles. Stolpen said the franchise was aware for some time of Chicago's interest in relocatng to the Southern League, which means that Pittsfield now has an Eastern League franchise but no team.

Bill Harford, director of minor league operations for the Chicago Cubs, would not confirm the move yesterday evening, saying, "Until we have a signed, sealed and delivered PDC, we have no comment."

But, while no PDC has been signed, the Cubs made it clear Wednesday they did not want their AA team to return to Pittsfield when they announced the termination of their PDC with the Eastern League franchise owned by Stuart Revo.

The parent club cited poor attendance as the chief reason for the end of their four-year affiliation in Pittsfield and also mentioned difficulty finding player housing as another factor.

Other factors

Yesterday, Pittsfield Cubs' field manager Jim Essian suggested there were other contributing factors.

"Not too many people [from other teams] looked forward to going into Pittsfield, maybe because of the clubhouse or the ballpark," said Essian, speaking from his home in Troy, Mich. "People made fun of Pittsfield. I didn't, nor did my players. We loved it there. But there were a lot of complaints."

The visiting clubhouse was small, with cramped shower space forcing most teams to dress elsewhere.

"The people came into Pittsfield and wanted to get out of town," said Essian. "They said, 'What kind of operation is this? What kind of clubhouse is this?' There were a lot of snide remarks, I suppose because the town is so small."

Pittsfield has a population of roughly 50,000, while the population of Charlotte is in excess of 300,000. The city will also have a new 11,000-seat stadium, expandable to major league size in hopes of attracting a major league baseball or football team, according to Stolpen. The construction is scheduled to be completed late next summer.

"They [the Cubs] never said anything negative to me about Pittsfield," said Stolpen, "but the new facility certainly didn't hurt our chances."

Nearby affiliates

He said the major reason cited by the Cubs for the move was the close proximity of their Class A clubs in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Wytheville, Va., both within driving distance of Charlotte.

"It's much easier for them to have scouts, trainers and coaches work in a closer environment," said Stolpen. "That's why Baltimore would like to have their Double-A club in Hagerstown [Md.]. They have a problem because Hagerstown's not Double-A."

Stolpen suggested another reason Baltimore desired a move was because the team had been promised a new stadium for

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Cubs moving to Charlotte
Continued on Page D2

9-16-88

Cubs' Double-A team bound for Carolina

Continued from Page D1

years by the former owners of Knights Park. The 7,000-seat Knights Park park burned down on March 16, 1985, reducing the capacity to 5,000. Since the fire, clubhouses, restrooms and concession stands have been housed in trailers.

Stolpen said the PDC between the Charlotte franchise and the Chicago Cubs was "subject to assurances we're going to build a facility." The owner of the Charlotte franchise, George Shinn, is also the owner of the new NBA franchise in that city.

"We'd like to do it [move] as soon as possible," Harford said yesterday afternoon. "We are looking into the best situation we can."

Revo said he spoke to Harford twice yesterday, "urging the Cubs to maintain an open mind" about Pittsfield. Although the Cubs had terminated their PDC with the Pittsfield franchise, that did not necessarily mean they wouldn't return here.

Since there are only 26 Class AA franchises, one for each of the major league teams, the possibility existed that the Cubs could be forced to return if they could not find another franchise.

Revo admitted last night he would be disappointed if he learned the Cubs were moving to another city.

"We've worked hard to raise the visibility of the Cubs in Berkshire County," he said. "Just for the sake of stability, I'd much rather stay with people I know. I hold out hope at this moment."

Pittsfield has been home to an Eastern League franchise since the 1985 season, but rumors have circulated that the franchise may move. Binghamton, N.Y., and Williamsport, Pa., have been mentioned as possibilities, but Revo said "Binghamton's dead" and he's never "looked at" Williamsport. He did acknowledge he has scouted out "a few" other locations within Eastern League limits.

"As a result of what the City Council has been doing lately, I think I'd be foolish if I didn't explore other possibilities," said Revo, "because there seems to be an element on the City Council that seems intent on driving us out."

He referred to recent discussions about a long-term lease, raising the rent at Wahconah Park and a proposal to put the ballpark lease out to bid. He claims that anyone who responds to a bid "would be fined" since the Eastern League possesses the rights to the city.

Possible new teams for Pittsfield are the Double-A franchises of the Orioles and the Seattle Mariners. Revo said either team, "being in the American League," would have something to offer, and he didn't think it would be "a total disaster" if either joined the Eastern League.

The Kansas City Royals initially were mentioned as another possibility, but Royals' Director of Player Development John Boles, said, "We have every intention of returning to Memphis."

9-16-88

Arlos — baseball's watchdog

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The city's population may not be a strong supporter of minor league baseball, as the Eagle claims [In Brief, Nov. 7], but if Stuart Revo is losing so much money here, why does he want his team in Pittsfield next year? He's either making money or is using Pittsfield as a stopover on the way to a community where he will make even more money.

Councilor Peter Arlos is willing to vote to approve any kind of lease Revo wants as long as he (Revo) frees the city next year to consider other interested teams to give the city and its baseball fans the best deal possible.

Revo wants to have his cake and eat it, too. He wants to keep us on a string and look for other more lucrative areas at the same time. He wants Pittsfield to be loyal to him without his being loyal to Pittsfield.

Councilor Arlos is just refusing to give away the store permanently. He wants to set a limit on the city's being taken advantage of and we baseball fans should support his efforts.

LEO W. NUTTING
63 Dawes Ave.
Pittsfield

11-13-88

87

Designated Hitter

Pro baseball in Pittsfield: many possibilities for 1989

By Ray Lamont

10-2-88

There may be an Eastern League team named the Pittsfield Hillies wearing Baltimore Orioles' uniforms at Wahconah Park next season. Then again, Stuart Revo's Double-A team could be playing its home games in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

There's a possibility that a club called the Pittsfield Mets could be battling for a pennant in the Class A New York-Penn League next summer. Then there's the chance Pittsfield may have no professional team at all.

Some of those statements may sound strange to people who have followed the Pittsfield Cubs through their Eastern League high and low points of the past four seasons. But any of them could result from a chess game that should unfold over the next couple of weeks. On one side of the table sits Revo, the owner of Pittsfield's Eastern League franchise. On the other side is the city of Pittsfield, most notably the Parks Commission and City Council. And looking in the window is Dalton businessman Mike Casey, who, along with his Pittsfield partners, Fran Devanny and Rick Murphy, owns the New York-Penn League's Little Falls (N.Y.) Mets.

The moves these parties make will decide Pittsfield's baseball picture for 1989. That picture first became clouded Sept. 14, when the Chicago Cubs chose to place their Double-A farm team in the Southern League at Charlotte, N.C.

That deprived Revo of a major-league player-development contract (PDC), the source of players for his franchise. It also essentially deprived Revo's team of its name.

"One reason it's a shame," says Revo, "is that we'd worked a long time to popularize the name 'Pittsfield Cubs,' but that's always the risk you take when you use the major-league parent's nickname. Probably, if we have a different working agreement, we'll come up with a different nickname. Maybe we'll go back to 'Hillies' [the name of Pittsfield's team in the old Eastern League of the 1920s]. Maybe it'll be the Electrics [a Pittsfield team in the Canadian-American League during the 1940s]. I don't know."

A more pertinent question, however, is whether 'Pittsfield' remains part of that club name.

Revo says he wants to sit down — perhaps this week — with Pittsfield city officials to begin negotiating the club's lease for 1989. He also says he wants to renew the lease on terms similar to what he's had in the past. That means he's once again looking for a one-year deal like the ones signed in 1985 and 1988 (Revo says the team signed a two-year lease in 1986). Those leases gave Revo the use of Wahconah Park for $1 a year.

City officials now want to up the ante.

"I think we should get a minimum of $5,000 for the park," says City Councilor Peter G. Arlos. "A dollar a year is ridiculous. That's a million-dollar facility."

Others want Revo to make more of a commitment to the city, and in a meeting Sept. 13, the City Council authorized the Parks Commission, which negotiates the lease, to seek a five-year deal.

"I think it's always been in the back of people's minds that the Cubs were just here for a little while," says Cliff Nilan, the Parks Commission chairman. "Everybody thought they'd be going to Binghamton [N.Y., which has often courted Revo's franchise but never affirmed a plan for a stadium]. We were just happy to have a team. Now I think we can do better than that, and I think we deserve better than that."

Revo seems perplexed by those opinions.

"We have a very hard time there financially," said Revo. "It seems to me that when we finish last in [Eastern League] attendance [as the Cubs did the last two years], it's the wrong time to be talking about making our lease less favorable."

Thus, while Revo says he's looking to negotiate a deal with Pittsfield, he also admits he's seeking other playing sites.

He won't say what those are.

"I'm not going to discuss any of them," he says. "As of now I want to [return to Pittsfield]. But in view of what various members of the city government are saying, I'd be foolish if I weren't exploring other alternatives."

* * * *

One of the front-runners appears to be Old Orchard Beach. That vacation community had a Triple-A team at "The Ballpark" for the past five seasons, but the Maine Phillies have moved to Scranton, Pa., for the 1989 campaign, leaving the municipally owned stadium vacant.

"Anybody that has a ballpark doesn't want to see it empty," says Old Orchard Beach Town Manager Jerome Plant. "We're encouraging anyone that wants to come in here. Yes, we've talked to Stuart Revo, and yes, we are pursuing some things. He's told me some things in confidence, and I believe in keeping it that way."

Chess game begins
Continued on Page B4

Chess game begins for Pittsfield baseball

Continued from Page B1

Revo isn't the only one looking to put a team in Maine. An Old Orchard group, headed by schoolteacher James Pouravolous, has bid to purchase the Williamsport, Pa., Eastern League franchise owned by Scranton businessman John McGee. That club also has no current player-development contract, since the Cleveland Indians, who operated there the past two years, have signed with the former Burlington, Vt., franchise, now moved to Canton, Ohio. McGee broke off talks last month with a Burlington group that sought to buy the team and move it to Vermont, but Pouravolous understands McGee is now entertaining offers from a "couple of other groups."

"We hope to know where we stand by the first of the week," Pouravoulos says.

If that group gets the Williamsport club, that would open Williamsport to Revo. That city, 162 miles from Baltimore, could be convenient for the Orioles. They're looking to place their Double-A club after losing Charlotte to the Cubs.

Revo says a working agreement is not his first concern.

"We have to get one," says the Pittsfield club owner. "There are 26 franchises out there on the Double-A level, and 26 working agreements."

Besides Baltimore, the California Angels and Seattle Mariners do not have agreements with Double-A franchises for next season. Spokesmen for the Mariners and Angels said they have not talked to Revo, but the Pittsfield owner has been courting the Orioles.

"We've talked to him, yes," says R. Douglas Melvin, Baltimore's director of player personnel, "and we're looking at the Eastern League, since the Southern League working agreements are all pretty much taken. He contacted us and mentioned that his club was available, but we haven't really sat down and talked. There's nothing definite at this time."

Melvin said that Revo had mentioned only the franchise, and had not discussed where the team would play.

"Wherever we'd go, we'd like to have our team in a city with an excellent facility," Melvin adds, "and in a place with a good fan base, with good community support."

The parent major-league organization can't dictate where a franchise owner puts his team. Yet the big-league club and minor-league owner work together on the location.

"Before we sign any deal, they'd have to be happy to have us supplying them with players, and we'd have to be happy that our players would be in a good environment, an environment they'd be happy with," Melvin says.

A lack of fan support and a scarcity of housing were among the reasons the Cubs left Pittsfield. Those factors might also deter another potential major-league tenant from moving in.

"We've heard there have been some problems up there," Melvin acknowledged.

"People here just have never supported that brand of baseball run by out-of-town people," admits Arlos. "They tried it when we were a city of 60,000. It didn't work. Now we're down close to 45,000, and it's not working."

* * * *

Pittsfield's future then may not be with Revo and the Eastern League. Yet Arlos, among others, thinks it could be a good home for a team in the New York-Penn League, which runs from June to September.

"I think a shorter season could work here," says Arlos, "and I'd like to see a club here with local ownership, involving local people. I think a team run by local guys, guys that people know, could make a go of it. This is no knock on Revo, but my experience tells me that people here only seem to support something that has local appeal, local interest. It's just the way it is.'

"I'd love to see Casey and those guys come in here," says Arlos. "They have a lot of friends, they're fun guys, and they're local. They're guys that people know, and I think they could attract a lot of people down there."

Casey and Co. have a five-year PDC with the Mets, but they haven't signed a 1989 lease with Little Falls. That city is seeking a three-year lease, while Casey's group wants a one-year deal with options.

Though the Mets averaged over 1,000 fans a game in Little Falls this past season, Casey admits he's also looking at other venues. But, by the territorial rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, one of them is not Pittsfield. As long as Revo has a franchise in Pittsfield, nobody can even express interest in moving within 35 miles of home plate at Wahconah Park.

"I've had people from the city contact me, and I've just had to tell them we can't talk," says Casey, the Little Falls club president. "We can't do anything. It's Stuart Revo's city. He can do what he wants. It's his move."

* * * *

The deciding factor in this little game may be the timing of that move. The Eastern League meetings are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 28. That's when the league begins to draw up its 1989 schedule, and it should know whether it's scheduling for Pittsfield, Williamsport, Old Orchard Beach or Timbuktu.

Casey's group is essentially working with an Oct. 15 deadline.

"That's when the Mets want us to have everything firmed up," says Casey, who will spend this week with the New York organization at the National League Championship Series.

Some city officials clearly think Casey's group is an alternative for Pittsfield. In spite of the National Association rules, the City Council has proposed putting Wahconah Park up for bid. And Nilan thinks the city can bargain from strength.

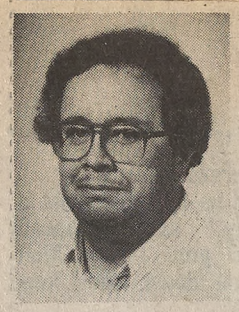
"I think we could get another team in here," he says, "and I think we should use that to our advantage [in negotiations with Revo]. I don't see anything wrong with that."

Yet a stalemate in the talks with Revo could lead to some long, quiet summer nights at Wahconah Park. Just for example, try this scenario on for size:

Revo doesn't make a move before Oct. 15. Casey's group, under pressure from the Mets, signs its lease with Little Falls. And Revo then announces he's going to Old Orchard Beach. Revo would be happy. The folks in Old Orchard Beach would be happy. Casey's group would likely be happy, too.

Everybody would be happy except the baseball fans of Pittsfield. In this game of chess, it is they who may face checkmate.

10-2-88



Designated Hitter

Pro baseba

There may be an Eastern League team named the Pittsfield Hillies wearing Baltimore Orioles' uniforms at Wahconah Park next season. Then again, Stuart Revo's Double-A team could be playing its home games in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

There's a possibility that a club called the Pittsfield Mets could be battling for a pennant in the Class A New York-Penn League next summer. Then there's the chance Pittsfield may have no professional team at all.

Some of those statements may sound strange to people who have followed the Pittsfield Cubs through their Eastern League high and low points of the past four seasons. But any of them could result from a chess game that should unfold over the next couple of weeks. On one side of the table sits Revo, the owner of Pittsfield's Eastern League franchise. On the other side is the city of Pittsfield, most notably the Parks Commission and City Council. And looking in the window is Dalton businessman Mike Casey, who, along with his Pittsfield partners, Fran Devanny and Rick Murphy, owns the New York-Penn League's Little Falls (N.Y.) Mets.

The moves these parties make will decide Pittsfield's baseball picture for 1989. That picture first

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BOYS' SOCCER:
Mount Everett at Pittsfield, 4 p.m.
Lee at Taconic, 4 p.m.
St. Joseph's at Mt. Greylock, 4 p.m.
Lenox at Drury, 4 p.m.
Hoosac Valley at Wahconah, 4 p.m.

GIRLS' SOCCER:
Pittsfield at Mount Everett, 4 p.m.
Taconic at Lee, 4 p.m.
Hoosac Valley at Lenox, 4 p.m.
Mount Greylock at St. Joseph's, 4 p.m.
Wahconah at Drury, 4 p.m.
Monument Mountain at McCann, 4 p.m.

GYMNASTICS:
East Longmeadow at Wahconah, 3:30
Cathedral at Pittsfield, 6:15

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL:
Drury at Mount Anthony, 1:30
Pittsfield at Brattleboro, 1:30
Commerce at McCann Tech, 1:30
Monument Mountain at Putnam, 1:30

COLLEGE FOOTBALL:
Williams at Trinity, 1:30

COLLEGE SOCCER:
Bridgewater State men at North Adams State, 2 p.m.
Williams men at Trinity, 2 p.m.
Berkshire Community men at Northern Essex, 2 p.m.
Trinity women at Williams, noon
Green Mountain women at North Adams State, 1:30

BOYS' SOCCER:
Lee at Taconic, 4 p.m.

PREP FOOTBALL:
Berkshire at Vermont Academy, 2:30

PREP SOCCER:
Highcroft boys at Darrow, 4 p.m.
Trinity Pawling boys at Berkshire, 2:30
Williston Northampton girls at Berkshire, 2 p.m.

Chess game begins for Pittsfield baseball

Continued from Page B1

Revo isn't the only one looking to put a team in Maine. An Old Orchard group, headed by schoolteacher James Pouravolous, has bid to purchase the Williamsport, Pa., Eastern League franchise owned by Scranton businessman John McGee. That club also has no current player-development contract, since the Cleveland Indians, who operated there the past two years, have signed with the former Burlington, Vt., franchise, now moved to Canton, Ohio. McGee broke off talks last month with a Burlington group that sought to buy the team and move it to Vermont, but Pouravolous understands McGee is now entertaining offers from a "couple of other groups."

"We hope to know where we stand by the first of the week," Pouravoulos says.

If that group gets the Williamsport club, that would open Williamsport to Revo. That city, 162 miles from Baltimore, could be convenient for the Orioles. They're looking to place their Double-A club after losing Charlotte to the Cubs.

Revo says a working agreement is not his first concern.

"We have to get one," says the Pittsfield club owner. "There are 26 franchises out there on the Double-A level, and 26 working agreements."

Besides Baltimore, the California Angels and Seattle Mariners do not have agreements with Double-A franchises for next season. Spokesmen for the Mariners and Angels said they have not talked to Revo, but the Pittsfield owner has been courting the Orioles.

"We've talked to him, yes," says R. Douglas Melvin, Baltimore's director of player personnel, "and we're looking at the Eastern League, since the Southern League working agreements are all pretty much taken. He contacted us and mentioned that his club was available, but we haven't really sat down and talked. There's nothing definite at this time."

Melvin said that Revo had mentioned only the franchise, and had not discussed where the team would play.

"Wherever we'd go, we'd like to have our team in a city with an excellent facility," Melvin adds, "and in a place with a good fan base, with good community support."

The parent major-league organization can't dictate where a franchise owner puts his team. Yet the big-league club and minor-league owner work together on the location.

"Before we sign any deal, they'd have to be happy to have us supplying them with players, and we'd have to be happy that our players would be in a good environment, an environment they'd be happy with," Melvin says.

A lack of fan support and a scarcity of housing were among the reasons the Cubs left Pittsfield. Those factors might also deter another potential major-league tenant from moving in.

"We've heard there have been some problems up there," Melvin acknowledged.

"People here just have never supported that brand of baseball run by out-of-town people," admits Arlos. "They tried it when we were a city of 60,000. It didn't work. Now we're down close to 45,000, and it's not working."

* * * *

Pittsfield's future then may not be with Revo and the Eastern League. Yet Arlos, among others, thinks it could be a good home for a team in the New York-Penn League, which runs from June to September.

"I think a shorter season could work here," says Arlos, "and I'd like to see a club here with local ownership, involving local people. I think a team run by local guys, guys that people know, could make a go of it. This is no knock on Revo, but my experience tells me that people here only seem to support something that has local appeal, local interest. It's just the way it is.'

"I'd love to see Casey and those guys come in here," says Arlos. "They have a lot of friends, they're fun guys, and they're local. They're guys that people know, and I think they could attract a lot of people down there."

Casey and Co. have a five-year PDC with the Mets, but they haven't signed a 1989 lease with Little Falls. That city is seeking a three-year lease, while Casey's group wants a one-year deal with options.

Though the Mets averaged over 1,000 fans a game in Little Falls this past season, Casey admits he's also looking at other venues. But, by the territorial rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, one of them is not Pittsfield. As long as Revo has a franchise in Pittsfield, nobody can even express interest in moving within 35 miles of home plate at Wahconah Park.

"I've had people from the city contact me, and I've just had to tell them we can't talk," says Casey, the Little Falls club president. "We can't do anything. It's Stuart Revo's city. He can do what he wants. It's his move."

* * * *

The deciding factor in this little game may be the timing of that move. The Eastern League meetings are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 28. That's when the league begins to draw up its 1989 schedule, and it should know whether it's scheduling for Pittsfield, Williamsport, Old Orchard Beach or Timbuktu.

Casey's group is essentially working with an Oct. 15 deadline.

"That's when the Mets want us to have everything firmed up," says Casey, who will spend this week with the New York organization at the National League Championship Series.

Some city officials clearly think Casey's group is an alternative for Pittsfield. In spite of the National Association rules, the City Council has proposed putting Wahconah Park up for bid. And Nilan thinks the city can bargain from strength.

"I think we could get another team in here," he says, "and I think we should use that to our advantage [in negotiations with Revo]. I don't see anything wrong with that."

Yet a stalemate in the talks with Revo could lead to some long, quiet summer nights at Wahconah Park. Just for example, try this scenario on for size:

Revo doesn't make a move before Oct. 15. Casey's group, under pressure from the Mets, signs its lease with Little Falls. And Revo then announces he's going to Old Orchard Beach. Revo would be happy. The folks in Old Orchard Beach would be happy. Casey's group would likely be happy, too.

Everybody would be happy except the baseball fans of Pittsfield. In this game of chess, it is they who may face checkmate. 10-2-88

Talking baseball in Pittsfield and New York

As Casey's group nears agreement in Little Falls, McCaffrey seeks pow-wow with Revo

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — On a day when the city found that it might lose its best bargaining tool, City Councilor James R. McCaffrey offered to help expedite negotiations to help secure Pittsfield's professional baseball team.

Speaking at an open meeting of concerned baseball fans last night at the Pilgrim Memorial Church, McCaffrey offered to serve as "a liason" for the city in contacting Stuart Revo, who owns the city's Eastern League Double A franchise, formerly the Pittsfield Cubs. The team's lease on Wahconah Park expired last month, and there have been no talks yet between Revo and the city about the future of the franchise.

Revo, who right now owns an unaffiliated team since the Chicago Cubs withdrew their Player Development Contract last month, is seeking to renew his one-year lease of Wahconah Park for $1, the same price as the last four years. City officials are seeking a long-term lease with a higher fee. Peter G. Arlos, councilor at large, last month proposed putting Wahconah Park "out to bid" to see if another team would be interested in coming to Pittsfield.

The team Arlos and other city officials had in mind was the Little Falls (N.Y.) Mets, a Class A New York-Pennsylvania League club owned by Dalton businessman Michael Casey and Pittsfield partners Francis Devanny and Richard Murphy. Yesterday, however, Casey's group held negotiations with officials in Little Falls regarding the renewal of the lease for the use of Veterans' Memorial Park. And Casey said last night that his group is "very, very close to an agreement" to keep the team in Little Falls.

Casey, who was given an Oct. 15 deadline by the parent New York Mets to settle on a playing site for next season, met with Little Falls Mayor Michael Izzo, New York state Sen. John Donovan, members of the Little Falls City Council and a citizens group. The city had previously been seeking a three-year lease, while Casey's group sought a one-year deal. But yesterday, the city offered a one-year agreement, and promised to make some $50,000 in park renovations that had been requested by the New York Mets.

"Basically, they offered to give us everything we asked for," Casey said. "They obviously want to keep baseball there very, very badly. They were very, very accommodating."

Casey said he plans to send a copy of the stadium improvement plans to New York today for the Mets's approval. He said he has not yet agreed, either verbally or in writing, to the lease.

"But I would say we're very close, and I would expect something to happen within a week," he said.

Some favor New York-Penn League team

Casey's signing with Little Falls would take away an option Pittsfield officials may have had if negotiations failed with Revo. Arlos has said he would like to see Pittsfield get a minor-league team with locally-based ownership, and that he felt a New York-Penn League team, with a June-to-September season, would be better suited to the city.

Casey said earlier he had been contacted by some Pittsfield city officials, but that he could not even talk to them about his team because of the territorial rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. Those rules prohibit any member of the association from tampering with the territory of another club. As owner of the Pittsfield team, Revo has territorial rights to any area within 35 miles of Wahconah Park.

City not bound by baseball rules

When the Pittsfield Council proposed putting the ballpark out to bid, Eastern League President Charles Eshbach wrote a letter to Council President Angelo Stracuzzi to, as the communication read, "enlighten" the city regarding baseball's territorial rules. The national association is the governing body for all minor leagues and clubs.

Stracuzzi turned Eshbach's letter, dated Sept. 15, over to the office of Pittsfield City Solicitor Michael McCarthy.

"I was confused by it," Stracuzzi said of the letter. "It sounded almost like he was saying, 'These are our rules, and you can't do anything about this.' I thought 'What do we care what their rules are?' Why does the city have to play by their rules? I didn't understand what their rules really had to do with us, and I wanted the city solicitor to explore what our options were."

McCarthy said that he is still studying the issue, but he does not think the city must abide by the rules of the national association.

"Their contracts between the club and the league don't really give them any legal rights to Wahconah Park," McCarthy said. "The park is a city property, and the city can allow anybody it wants in there — anybody that is approved by the Parks Commission."

McCarthy, however, also said he's "concerned" that the city's seeking to put the park out to bid would be a violation of "contract law," since the city might come between contract partners (Revo's club and the league).

Though the city may not be bound by the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues' rules, any team coming here would be. Speaking by telephone from his office in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sal Artiaga, administrator for the association, said there is no set penalty for violating territorial rules, but that violations "simply can't happen."

"The rules are voted on by the entire association, and the entire association must abide by them," Artiaga said. "It's as simple as that."

A team violating territorial rights thus could not remain a member of the association, and would have no professional league to play in. That may sound like a monopoly, but baseball is exempt from a number of federal anti-trust laws.

"It's a sort of legalized collusion," said McCarthy. "It's the way baseball is built."

Baseball in Pittsfield
Continued on Page D3

10/14/88

The Arlos-Revo rhubarb

Pittsfield Councilor at Large Peter G. Arlos' blustering over the terms of a Wahconah Park lease with Stuart Revo, who operated the Pittsfield Cubs club here for four seasons, would appear to be based on a thoroughly unrealistic view of the city's bargaining strength in the negotiations. Not only has the city's population not been a notably strong supporter of minor league baseball, Mr. Revo holds another strong card: Under a rule of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, no one else can express an interest in using the Pittsfield park as long as he still holds the "territorial rights" granted by the association.

11-7-88

Baseball in Pittsfield

Continued from Page D1

"If they're [city officials] thinking about starting some sort of outlaw league, then putting the park out to bid is fine," said Revo. "But as far as the association goes, that's my territory.

"When I hear them say they want to put the park out to bid, I read that as they want something other than our club. That's why I'm exploring other alternatives."

Revo has talked with town officials in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and has been considering a 1990 lease already approved by the city of Binghamton, N.Y.

Artiaga says he's puzzled by Pittsfield's stance regarding the association rules.

"I don't understand what they're trying to do," he said. "I can't see what they're trying to convey. It certainly doesn't suggest the city has a very positive attitude toward baseball."

Fans express concern

Most speakers at last night's fans' meeting also expressed concern about the city's stance. The Pilgrim Memorial Church meeting drew 23 people, including city councilors Arlos and McCaffrey.

"I've felt that the political aspect, and the personality aspect of this has gotten in the way of the baseball aspect," said Marion Newton, president of the Pittsfield Cubs' Booster Club. "The thing is baseball — to keep baseball here."

Arlos reiterated he felt Revo has acted "in bad faith," by negotiating with cities other than Pittsfield.

"He should be here [at the meeting]," Arlos said of Revo. "Why isn't he here? You people here have shown more concern than he has." The baseball franchise was not represented at the meeting.

McCaffrey said he would do what he could to speed up the negotiating process.

"I'll call him [Revo], and I'll make arrangements with him to meet with him any time at his convenience," McCaffrey said. "I don't want him to leave town and blame it on city officials — that they wouldn't talk with him.

"I want him to know that we do want baseball," he said, "and that we do want his team here."

10-14-88

88.

Baseball talks enter 'critical time'

Revo seeks to meet with city officials

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The owner of Pittsfield's professional baseball club has mailed in his first counterproposal for a Wahconah Park lease. Now Stuart Revo wants to meet with city officials face to face.

E.J. Narcise, who served as general manager of the Pittsfield Cubs Eastern League team last season, yesterday began arranging a proposed Friday meeting involving Revo, Pittsfield Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, City Solicitor Michael McCarthy and representatives of both the City Council and Parks Commission.

"We feel this is a very critical time [in negotiations]," said Narcise, speaking on behalf of Revo, who was unavailable for comment. "We would only meet if all the parties involved were available, but we feel this would be a very good time for both sides to air their differences and see where we stand."

Until now, all negotiations have been through the mail, with letters exchanged between Revo and McCarthy. The city solicitor acts on behalf of the Parks Commission, which negotiates the lease for the park. The lease between the city and Revo, who operated the Pittsfield Cubs for the past four seasons, expired Sept. 9.

While negotiating with Pittsfield, Revo has also acknowledged talking to other cities about moving his team, which will be a farm club of the Seattle Mariners next season. Among those communities are Binghamton, N.Y., which is building a new stadium and has sent Revo a proposed lease for 1990, and Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Other cities under consideration include Williamsport, Pa., and Burlington, Vt., both of which had Eastern League teams last season. The Williamsport, Pa., franchise was recently sold to a Maryland-based group that is seeking to move the club to Hagerstown, Md., and Burlington lost its franchise to Canton, Ohio.

Negotiations elsewhere

"We make no bones about it, we are actively and urgently negotiating with other cities," Narcise said yesterday. Narcise would not elaborate on which cities were most actively involved, but said Binghamton "is not a prime consideration right now."

Any proposed move must be approved by other Eastern League owners, who are scheduled to meet Monday at Newark, N.J. The Winter Baseball Meetings are slated to begin Dec. 4 in Atlanta, Ga.

"We will make a definite decision [on a home for 1989] by the winter meetings," Narcise said, "so that's why it's essential to find out exactly where we stand here."

The news of a proposed face-to-face meeting was welcomed by City Councilor at large James McCaffrey, who previously offered to serve as a liaison between the city and the team.

"I think it's very encouraging," said McCaffrey. "I think it's a step in the right direction."

City Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, who has opposed some aspects of the lease proposed by the city, had mixed emotions about the meeting.

"On one hand, it's about time," said Arlos, who has criticized Revo for failing to follow through on plans to visit the city and negotiate.

On the other hand, Arlos said he views the meeting as an attempt by Revo to circumvent a Council petition filed by Arlos last week. That proposal calls for Revo to surrender all rights to the park after 1989.

"If my petition passes," said Arlos, "then whatever happens at the [Friday] meeting would be meaningless. I feel he [Revo] should come, and negotiate with the entire Council. But I do feel that, at least, there seems to be some progress. At least they're doing something."

Other developments

In addition to the planned Friday meeting, other developments were as follows:

• Revo has made his first counteroffer for a lease. In the proposal, put forth in a letter to McCarthy dated Nov. 9, Revo suggested a three-year deal with a rental fee of $5,000. It would include, however, an option for the club to terminate the agreement after one year, and would guarantee a Double-A team for only the 1989 season.

"If such team were not to play in Pittsfield in 1990 or 1991," the proposal reads, "an effort would be made to replace the team for such years[s] with another Double A team or with a short-season [New York-Penn League] Single A level team."

Revo seeks lease talks
Continued on Page D2

11-16-88

Revo seeks meeting over lease talks

11-16-88

Continued from Page D1

If that couldn't be done, the rental fee would increase to $10,000, or the club would sublease the park to another team, with 25 percent of the profit going to the city.

Arlos had said the city should seek a multi-year lease with a rental fee of at least $5,000, rather than the one-year, $1 deal Revo's club had had in the past.

"I'm grateful to Mr. Revo, because he's obviously addressing these concerns," said Arlos, who also said, however, that he would not relent on his petition to have Revo give up rights to the park if he moved the team.

"I don't think we should get into a situation where they could dictate to us what team would play here," Arlos said. "I feel that if they don't use the park for their team, we should be able to seek another club of our choosing — not his."

• A new party has asked the city that its interests be considered in the lease negotiations.

The Fourth of July Parade Committee, which sponsors the annual Precision and Pageantry drum corps show, hopes to receive at least a percentage of concession revenues from that event, which regularly draws over 5,000 spectators. The Cubs have, in the past, held all Wahconah Park concession rights, and Narcise said the drum corps concession grossed some $6,000 last year.

"We need that revenue," Narcise said, "and we would not sign any lease that would have us giving up our concession."

Parade committee Beverly Chartier said her group could use some of that money, too.

"We're not trying to be hard-nosed," Chartier said last night, "but we're just looking to protect our interests. We bring a lot of people into the park that night, and we haven't gotten one red cent in four years now. We'd like to be able to get the rights to the park that night, so we could sell the concession back to them [the club]. Or maybe we could just get a percentage — maybe 20 percent, or 30. We've put on a parade [on Opening Day] for the Cubs a few times now, and we just feel they could do more for us."

• Though Revo has not signed an agreement with Seattle, such a signing will be only a formality.

The California Angels have signed with Midland, Texas, to keep their Double-A team there for the next three seasons. That means Seattle is the only major-league team without a Player Development Contract on the Double-A level, while Revo's club is the only franchise available.

Despite the affiliation, the 1989 Pittsfield team — if there is one — would probably not be called the Mariners. Revo has said he would like to have a name that could survive another loss of affiliation. Among the possibilities are Hillies, the name of Pittsfield's pro team in the 1920s, and Mountaineers.

"If we were the Mountaineers," said Revo, "then we could still call ourselves the M's."

That's the nickname Seattle uses in its logo.

90.

Council meeting tonight may decide city's baseball fate

12-2-88

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The end to Pittsfield's four-year reign in the Eastern League might come after a City Council vote tonight.

The Council is holding a special meeting at 7:30 to vote on a proposed lease agreement between the city and Stuart Revo, the owner of Pittsfield's Double-A baseball franchise. Revo has given the city until tomorrow to present him with its best and final offer.

City Solicitor Michael McCarthy said tonight's vote is critical because of Revo's deadline. A negative vote by the Council would, in essence, end any hope of baseball in Pittsfield for 1989.

"If the City Council rejects this proposed lease, I won't be able to offer Stuart Revo anything. I just don't know what would happen," McCarthy said, admitting that an alternative lease plan couldn't be drawn up in time to meet the deadline. "Revo has requested a final offer by [tomorrow]. If the City Council doesn't approve this, I don't know where to go from here."

Revo refused to comment on whether he gave the same deadline to Williamsport, Pa., and Burlington, Vt. Both cities are in the running for Revo's franchise. He would confirm only the deadline given to Pittsfield.

Major sticking point

One area of difference between the proposed lease and a petition submitted by Councilor-at-large Peter C. Arlos and approved by the Council seemed to be ironed out by the proposed payment of $1,000 to the Fourth of July Parade Committee in lieu of splitting concession profits at the drum and bugle corps competition.

But there is still a major sticking point for some city councilors in the Revo proposal. According to the current offer, Revo would sign a three-year lease for $5,000 per year but guarantee a Double A team for only one season. The other two years could see a Class A team in Pittsfield under Revo's ownership, but the lease does not give Revo permission to sublease Wahconah Park. He would be required to pay two years' rent, even if no team resides in Pittsfield.

"The only thing I don't really like about [the lease] is the fact that after next year, he can go down to Class A ball," said Ward 3 councilor Eric Biss.

"If we've got to tie ourselves down to three years and tie ourselves down to some crappy Class A club that Revo can come in with, I'll forego the privilege. If no other councilor has that hang-up, I'm not going to defeat the lease because of that."

Arlos, whose alternative lease proposal was approved by the City Council two weeks ago, has no argument with most of the new proposal, but he has a problem with the three-year clause. He still wants the city to be a free agent at the end of the 1989 season.

"We want baseball, but we don't want the city to be taken advantage of. We want our self-respect," Arlos said. "The main contention is the park belongs to the people. He [Revo] has no right to designate who can use the park."

While the fate of Pittsfield's franchise hangs in the balance tonight, the mayor of Williamsport is still hanging by the phone waiting to hear from Revo concerning that city's lease offer.

Last week, Mayor Jessie Bloom was optimistic that the Pittsfield franchise would be relocating to her city. With the latest discussions in Pittsfield and the lobbying effort by Burlington to attract the team, she's not so sure any more.

"I feel we negotiated a contract in good faith. I have to question if Mr. Revo is negotiating in good faith," a disappointed Bloom said last night. "I'm less optimistic now. I felt we negotiated a very good contract. I thought Mr. Revo was in agreement. I have to question where he's coming from."

The Eastern League has given Revo until Dec. 16 to find a home for his franchise, which will an affiliate of the Seattle Mariners

Revo, city solicitor clear hurdle in baseball talks

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — As tentative agreements go, this one is far more tentative than most. Yet there has, been, at last, some agreement reached in the negotiations between the City of Pittsfield and Stuart Revo, principal owner of the city's professional baseball team, the Eagle learned last night.

Pittsfield City Solicitor Michael McCarthy has sent a written communication to Mayor Ann Everest Wojtkowski, members of the City Council and members of the Parks Commission, notifying those parties that he and Revo have agreed on a lease that would allow Revo to operate his Eastern League team at Wahconah Park next season.

The agreement, reached in telephone negotiations between Revo and McCarthy earlier this week, now must be approved by other parties on both sides of the issue.

Not even 'tentative' yet

"I can't say we've even got a tentative agreement yet by any means," said McCarthy. "But the two primary negotiators [McCarthy and Revo] have agreed on what should be part of the lease. Now, I have to get a feeling for what my clients [city officials] feel about it, and Stuart has other [investors] he has to account to as well."

"He [Revo] still has all his options open," McCarthy added. "He hasn't yet said for sure that, even if the city approves this lease, he's keeping the team here. All we're saying is that he and I, on a one-to-one basis, have agreed."

The news of the agreement comes less than a week after Revo was reported close to an agreement with Williamsport, Pa., as well. Throughout the often stormy two-month period of negotiations with Pittsfield, Revo has openly admitted he was holding talks with other cities, including Williamsport.

On the city's side, the proposed lease would have to be approved by Mayor Wojtkowski and the Parks Commission. The City Council does not necessarily have to give its approval, McCarthy said.

"But since the Council has authority over the budgeting and appointments of the Parks Commission [which holds the park lease], we want Council approval," McCarthy commented. "There would be terrible dissension, for one thing, if the other parties agreed to a lease that the Council had voted down. And the Council has shown a great deal of interest in the negotiations throughout this process."

The Council last week voted in favor of a lease proposal that would have required Revo to give up all rights to the park after his lease expired, yet sources last night indicated that the agreed-to lease includes no such provision.

Three-year lease proposed

McCarthy would neither confirm nor deny any aspects of the agreement, and Revo could not be reached for comment. Yet sources indicated the new lease would be a three-year deal, with the city to receive a rental fee of $5,000 a year, regardless of whether Revo's organization fields a team. Revo would guarantee a Double-A team only for 1989, with the option to bring in a Class A club for the two succeeding years. Yet the club would not hold any rights to sublease the park, as Revo had sought.

By the same token, the club would be liable for park security, but would not have to pay a city policeman, as the city had originally sought. Also, the Fourth of July Parade Committee would hold 'superior rights' (essentially first dibs) to the park, for its Precision and Pageantry drum corps show but would not receive any money from the concessions, as it had hoped. The proposal approved by the Council included a provision which would have given the parade com-

Baseball talks clear hurdle
Continued on Page D2

12-3-88

Baseball talks clear hurdle

Continued from Page D1

mittee 50 percent of the drum corps concessions.

"I can't comment on specifics of the agreement," McCarthy said. "I can say that certain aspects of what the Council was seeking were, in essence, unattainable."

'Emergency' meeting possible

McCarthy said he will poll members of the Council over the next few days to "hear out their feelings" regarding the proposal. The Council is not scheduled to meet until Dec. 13, but McCarthy said he may talk to Council President Angelo Stracuzzi about calling an emergency Council meeting if necessary.

"I feel time is a big factor here," said McCarthy, "and I want to know very quickly whether we have full approval."

Revo is scheduled to attend the professional baseball Winter Meetings in Atlanta beginnning tomorrow, and the Pittsfield franchise owner has said he would decide on a 1989 home for his team by the end of those sessions next week.

Revo operated the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park for the past four seasons. His 1989 team — wherever it plays — will be the Double A affiliate of the Seattle Mariners.

12-3-88

91.

Pittsfield baseball clock ticks

Williamsport move seems more likely as time goes by

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The fate of Stuart Revo's Eastern League franchise may be decided within the next week, with a move from Pittsfield to Williamsport, Pa., beginning to look more possible each day.

Williamsport has put together a plan it hopes will snare the Cubs next season and possibly beyond. Revo has said he will make a decision on where his team will play by the time baseball's winter meetings take place. The meetings begin in Atlanta this weekend.

"I would say we've got most of the major stumbling blocks ironed out," Williamsport Mayor Jessie Bloom told The Eagle yesterday. "We'll find out if it [an agreement] is satisfactory to both sides."

She had said Williamsport was looking for at least a two-year lease on its facilities, which became vacant when the former Williamsport Bills moved to Hagerstown, Md. The multiyear lease had been a bone of contention between Revo and Williamsport. Yesterday, Bloom said the length of a lease was no longer a major consideration.

For his part, Revo wouldn't deny such an agreement has been worked on and acknowledged that the two parties were close.

"We have at least one outstanding issue there," said Revo from Miami, Fla., where he is setting up another minor-league franchise. "I think there is a good offer on the table."

Pittsfield's latest offer

Pittsfield also has an offer on the table. The city's offer, sources said, is a three-year lease for Wahconah Park at $5,000 per season. Revo would not confirm those figures but said the proposed deal isn't being held up over rent issues. He did say there was a substantial disagreement over a "pocketbook issue" but wouldn't elaborate.

The club owner reiterated his strong opinion that Pittsfield hasn't responded to his call for a show of support, a lack of movement that he said could send him packing.

"I'm still not feeling very positive about the situation," said Revo, adding that he is disappointed about a lack of outcry from the city and its business community. "I'm concerned about the lack of response to the many hints I've been dropping. I am not feeling good about the lack of support. The city has sent a message to me, and I got it."

Pittsfield Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, who sat in on the Nov. 18 negotiation session between City Solicitor Michael J. McCarthy and Revo, said the city has sent a message that it wants the Cubs back. She said she would like to see the team remain in Pittsfield and will continue to do what she can to keep it here.

"I certainly heard him very clearly," Wojtkowski said. "It's part of a city's business to help a business like this. We have made it clear we support what he's trying to do."

Narcise "disappointed"

Although the mayor's office may support keeping the franchise in Pittsfield, general manager E.J. Narcise doesn't see that support

Pittsfield clock is ticking
Continued on Page D3

11-30-88

Pittsfield clock is ticking

Continued from Page D1

manifesting itself in the city.

While McCarthy and Revo were negotiating, the City Council injected itself into the equation by approving a recommended lease at its Nov. 22 meeting. On an 8-3 vote, the Council approved Councilor Peter G. Arlos's petition, which included a one-year lease and the requirement that Revo surrender territorial rights to Pittsfield after 1989 — something Revo said he wouldn't do.

"The bottom line is that I'm disappointed. We had a great session with the city solicitor, and they [the City Council] turned around and closed the door on us," Narcise said bitterly. "I feel we have some strong ties here, and I'd like to see us come back. I just don't think it's possible."

Narcise said Williamsport has been very aggressive in courting the franchise, as has Burlington, Vt., which will send a delegation to the winter meetings to lobby Eastern League owners about returning Double A baseball to the Vermont capital. Pittsfield, he implied, has been laid back about the team's future.

No talks between Revo and McCarthy will be held until tomorrow, as McCarthy is in Boston today. The clock is ticking, and it looks like time might be running out for Pittsfield.

"I feel right now, with the exception of our sponsors, we have no reason to come back here. We really don't," Narcise added. "I'd much rather be somewhere where they want us and where they show they want us."

11-30-88

Revo 'leaning' toward leaving

From Local and Wire Reports

If the Pittsfield City Council has to approve a lease proposal, Pittsfield baseball club owner Stuart Revo said his Eastern League franchise won't return to the city next year.

"We would not participate with a process where they would need the endorsement of the City Council either before or after," Revo said last night from Atlanta, where he is attending the baseball Winter Meetings. "We won't sign a lease that's subject to the City Council's approval."

Revo was quoted by the Associated Press yesterday as saying that although the team could remain in Pittsfield, "Honestly, we're leaning toward leaving."

With that in mind, the league voted 4-3 to give Revo permission to explore moving his Pittsfield franchise to Burlington, Vt. The league's vote came Sunday in Atlanta after a Vermont delegation went before league owners to present Burlington's case.

Revo, who operated the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park for the past four seasons, has also been involved in negotiations with Pittsfield and Williamsport, Pa.

He was reported last week as being close to an agreement with Williamsport, and Pittsfield City Solicitor Michael McCarthy said Friday night he and Revo had agreed on a one-to-one basis to a lease for Wahconah Park. Yet Revo denied reaching agreement with Pittsfield.

"Oh, absolutely not. We never had," said Revo, adding that he has not yet seen the proposal McCarthy mailed to city officials — and Revo — Dec. 2. "I told the city to give us their best and final offer. We wouldn't dicker with them."

Revo continues to be dismayed by what he said is perceived by his investors as Pittsfield's lack of interest in the fate of the franchise.

"I would not be optimistic about us signing a lease with Pittsfield for two main factors — the unfriendly posture of the City Council and the absolute failure of public officials and private persons to come forward and demonstrate real support for the Pittsfield baseball club," he said. "I don't feel they want us."

Sunday's vote by the Eastern League owners was a way to smooth out the process of finding a home for Revo's franchise.

"They [Revo and his partners] didn't want to go through the negotiations without knowing if the league would be amenable to the move or not," Eastern League president Charles Eshbach told The Eagle from Atlanta yesterday. "They're just looking at three places right now and want to make a decision — hopefully promptly."

Burlington's Centennial Field has played host to minor-league clubs for the last five years. The Cincinnati Reds' AA team called it

Revo leaving toward leaving'
Continued on Page D2

12-6-88

Baseball decision on 'hold'

Revo may seek deadline waiver from league today

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Today is D-Day for Stuart Revo.

That was to stand for Decision Day — the day Revo is supposed to announce whether his Double-A, Eastern League franchise will play in Williamsport, Pa., or Burlington, Vt., next season. It was to stand for Deadline Day — the day the league has set to make that announcement.

Now, however, it may also stand for Delay Day.

Saying that he was speaking for Revo, E.J. Narcise, the general manager of the Pittsfield Cubs this past season, said last night that Revo may ask the league "for a couple of more days," before making his decision.

Narcise said that a Pittsfield press conference tentatively scheduled for today had been canceled, "because we may not have a decision [today]. We may have, we may not. But we may have to ask the league to let us go into early next week."

Eastern League president Charles Eshbach last night said he had not received a request from Revo to push back the deadline, and would not speculate on whether such a request would be approved. He said the request, if formally made today, would have to be approved by the league's board of directors, perhaps in a conference call.

Not thrilled by delay

Speaking by telephone from his Plainville, Conn., home, Eshbach did not seem receptive to a delay in the decision process.

"Obviously, the longer this thing goes on, the harder it makes it on everybody," he said.

Narcise, however, speculated the league would grant a delay if it is necessary.

"They [the league directors] really can't force us to go to one place or the other," he said. "No matter what happens now, nothing much is going to get done until after the holidays. We may still have an announcement [today], we would hope to have one early next week. Then again, if the league grants us until next Friday, we may take the full time allowed to make the decision properly."

Williamsport lease passed

The Tale of the Two Cities seeking Revo's team also continued yesterday.

By a 5-2 vote, the Williamsport City Council last night approved a lease previously agreed to in principle by Revo and Williamsport Mayor Jessie Bloom. The lease is a two-year proposal, and last night's vote overruled a Williamsport Recreation Commission vote prohibiting beer sales in Bowman Field. Revo, however, had not said he is definitely moving the team to Williamsport if the lease were passed.

Bloom, who called Revo after the lease was approved, told the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, "He seemed

Baseball
Continued on Page D8

12-16-88

Baseball

Continued from Page D1

elated with the decision. He said he was very much leaning toward Williamsport. But it's not definite."

Narcise, however, said that Revo is "right in the middle" in his decision between the cities.

"We were leaning toward Williamsport before," said Narcise, "but we feel right now they're pretty even."

Revo visited Burlington to negotiate with civic leaders there on Wednesday, and Narcise called the meeting "very productive."

'Inundated' with calls

The call from Williamsport Mayor Bloom wasn't the only one Revo got yesterday. Burlington radio station WIZN-FM broadcast Revo's New York office number, and encouraged listeners to call and ask the club owner to bring the team to Burlington.

"They were inundated with calls," Narcise said. "They received over 100 both during the morning show and in the afternoon. They [the callers] seemed very enthusiastic."

Narcise said if a delay is requested and granted, Revo may visit Burlington again.

"There's nothing scheduled at this point," Narcise said, "but there could be another meeting over the next few days. Like I said, the feeling is we just may need more time."

12-16-88

Revo 'leaning toward leaving' Pittsfield

Continued from Page D1

home from 1984 to 1987, a time when the Reds won the Eastern League championship three times and came in second twice.

The Seattle Mariners moved to town last year, but the franchise owner, Mike Agganis, announced toward the end of the season that he would move his operation to Canton, Ohio. The franchise, wherever it lands, will again be affiliated with the Mariners. Revo is expected to sign a Player Development Contract with Seattle before the end of the Winter Meetings this week.

Eshbach would not say if the league owners had any opinion on the team remaining in Pittsfield or moving elsewhere. He just wants a quick decision.

Not under the gun

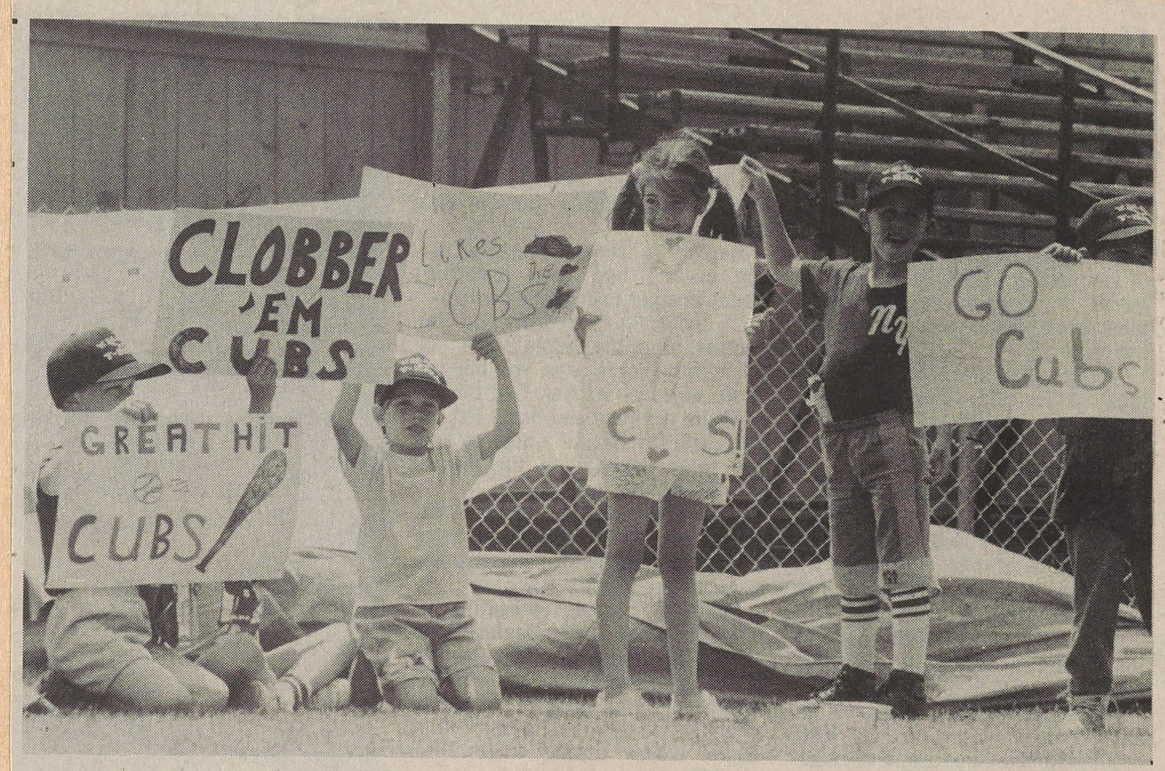
"We want them to do it quickly — but we can't hold a gun to their heads," said Eshbach. "We want them to decide if they'll stay in Pittsfield or move. That's where it stands."

Revo said last night that the Eastern League owners were distressed by the Pittsfield situation.

12-6-88

"I made a full report to the Eastern League and the league is very unhappy with the attitude in Pittsfield," Revo added. "They're not at all inclined to encourage us to remain in Pittsfield.

"We're very favorably disposed toward the city of Burlington. I was one of those owners who was opposed to the franchise's relocation [to Canton]," Revo told AP. "However, there are real facility and scheduling problems there which have to be sufficiently worked out."



Bob McDonough

Poster children

This group of happy and healthy youngsters was part of the crowd that took part in yesterday's poster competition sponsored by the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park. The Cubs obliged by scoring an extra-inning win over the Reading Phillies. Story, other photo on Page D1.

6/13/88

Mark Mitchell

FLAGS FLYING, the Farjardo Drum & Bugle Corps from the Bronx takes the field.

Sounding a holiday call

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Swirling flags, unrelenting drumbeats and quivering brass melodies rose from a sea of glitter and plumes to welcome in the Fourth of July in Wahconah Park's center field last night.

Billed as the "Parade Preview Spectacular," the four-hour marathon nearly ran into July 4. The crowd of 2,000, however, seemed ready to celebrate all night.

Members of the Fourth of July Parade Committee, which figured on netting $7,000 or $8,000 from the event, were equally joyful.

Seven drum and bugle corps from this morning's parade performed last night, offering several renditions of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and other patriotic tunes, as well as a generous portion of popular music.

Bruce Desoe, president of the Parade Committee, honored the Lt. John Truden Post 448 Color Guard with a plaque that officially proclaimed the unit "the official color guard of the Fourth of July parade."

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski welcomed the corps members to Pittsfield, and informed the crowd that she had stolen a peek at some of the parade's "breathtaking" floats.

The night's first performers, the Warren Squires Military Band, sat on folding chairs around home plate to play such songs as "America the Beautiful" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

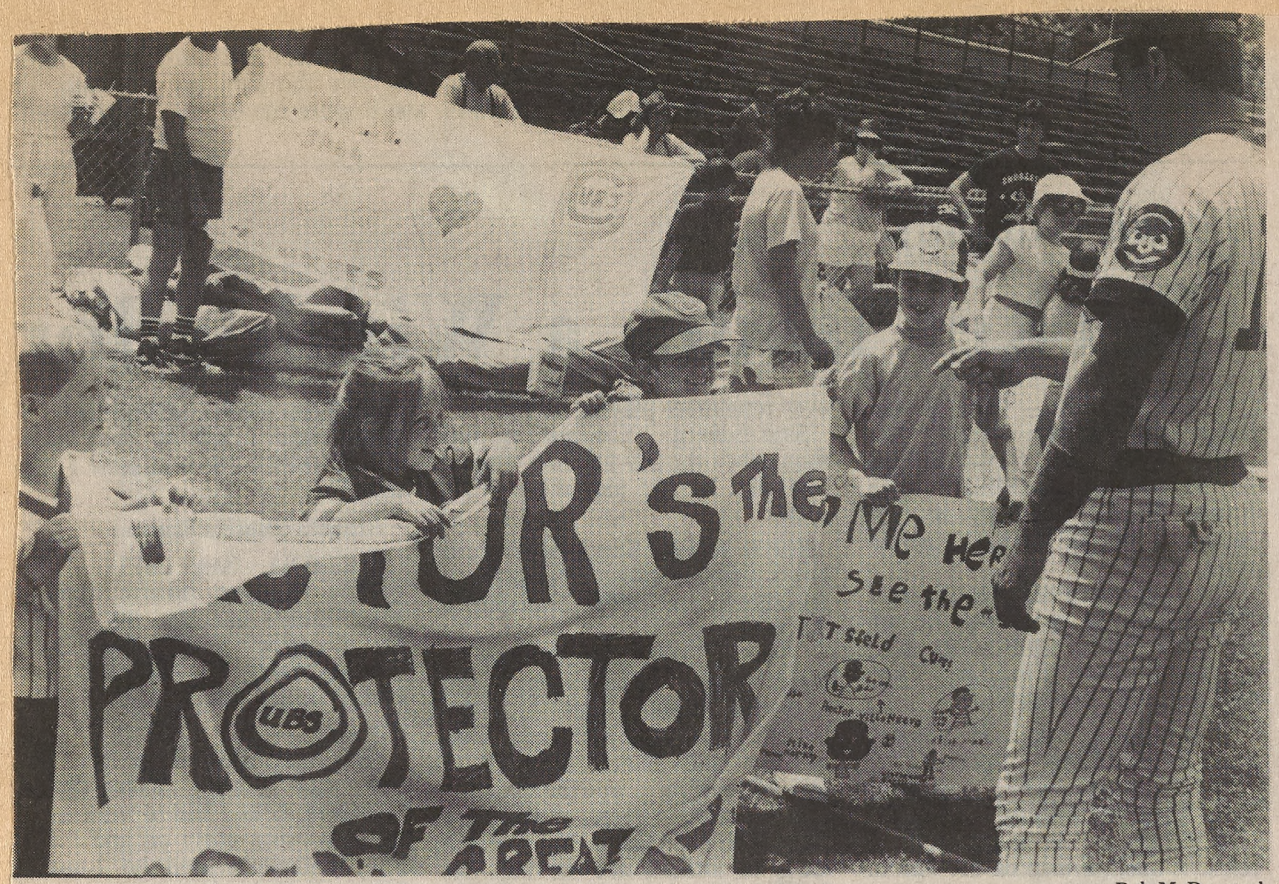
Singer/guitarist Matt Lesko was next.

The rest of the night, however, was given over to the traditional drum corps pageantry, and the crowd ate it up. Some bands — like the Westchester Brassmen Senior Drum & Bugle Corps. from Harrison, N.Y., and the Ventures Drum & Bugle Corps from Kirchner, Ontario, Canada — simply stood and played in the infield, but with such aplomb that the audience was on its feet.

Other corps marched as they played, and the park's outfield was specially laid out with yardmarkers to help keep the regiments in line.

James Brassard, the program's master of ceremonies, was on hand between performances to boost today's parade and tonight's firework show. Today's parade begins at 10 a.m. and will go from East Housatonic and South streets to Wahconah Park.

7/4/88



Bob McDonough

BRIBERY is attempted by Pittsfield Cubs third baseman Ray Thoma, right, who playfully offered gum and other sweets to these youngsters to try to sway their allegiance away from their favorite Cub, Hector Villanueva. Bearing the poster proclaiming "Hector the protector of the world's greatest team" is the Worthington trio of Evan Donovan, Lydia Okrent and John Okrent. It was poster day at yesterday's game at Wahconah Park.

95.

Baseball: Why Pittsfield struck out

News Analysis

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Baseball and politics. Each can be a game, each is a part of American life and separately, each can provide a great deal of entertainment.

Together, however, they can form a volatile mix. For the past three months, the issue of professional baseball became a political football in Pittsfield. And the baseball fans of Pittsfield appear to have lost.

Stuart Revo, the New York businessman who operated the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park for the past four seasons, announced on Friday that his Eastern League team will make its home next season in Williamsport, Pa. That announcement officially brought down the curtain on Pittsfield's latest run as a professional baseball city, and assured us all that Wahconah Park will often be as dark and lonely next summer as it is right now.

Few fans

Pittsfield's chances of keeping baseball were hurt by poor attendance; the Cubs drew the fewest fans of any Eastern League team in each of the past two seasons.

They were hurt by a shortage of area housing; a lack of suitable housing for players was one of the main reasons the Chicago Cubs chose to sever their affiliation with Revo's franchise, and relocate their Double-A farm club in Charlotte, N.C., for next season.

The departure of the Cubs, however, hardly signaled the end of Pittsfield baseball for next season. Revo still had his franchise (he has since affiliated with the Seattle Mariners) and that franchise was still in Pittsfield.

Ultimately, Pittsfield's hopes of keeping baseball were killed by city politics. The final nails were driven into the coffin when the City Council first approved a proposed Wahconah Park lease Revo said he would never sign, then voted down a lease that Revo and City Solicitor Michael McCarthy had essentially agreed to.

"Once the Council got involved to the extent that it did," says McCarthy, who acted as the city's chief negotiator on behalf of the mayor and the Parks Commission, "it made it much more difficult to reach an agreement that was suitable to everybody. Anytime you negotiate something with a high level of visibility, something that generates the interest that this did, it becomes difficult

Why Pittsfield
Continued on Page B4

12-18-88

Does Pittsfield have 'black eye' in baseball?

Narcise, in farewell, says 'people need to open their eyes'

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The general manager of Pittsfield's former Eastern League franchise said the city got a black eye in the baseball community over the loss of the franchise to Williamsport, Pa., last week. But E.J. Narcise added he doesn't think it means a final end to baseball in the city.

"Pittsfield was the talk of the winter meetings on the Double A level. We were referred to as the Pittsfield-Williamsport-Burlington franchise in the meetings because no one knew what was happening," Narcise told a news conference at the Berkshire Hilton yesterday. "Pittsfield definitely has a name in baseball, no question about that. I don't think this closes the door on Pittsfield's baseball future, but I think some people need to open their eyes a little."

Narcise wouldn't name who should open their eyes, preferring to cite the positive strides the Pittsfield Cubs made in the team's fourth season at Wahconah Park. It was clear, however, that Narcise believed the franchise moved to Williamsport partly because of a lack of verbalized support in Pittsfield.

"The people who wanted us aggressively pursued us," Narcise said. "After I sat in on that City Council meeting two weeks ago, I called Stuart [Revo] to give him my comments on it. I said 'What are we doing? We've got one foot on the banana peel and they're pushing us from behind, and we've got two cities begging us to come and play ball there.' It was frustrating."

Final appearance

The club's reasons for leaving and Pittsfield's baseball future were the only negative topics Narcise touched on during his final public appearance as general manager of Revo's Class AA franchise here. Despite the negative public pronouncements during the final month of lease talks between Revo and the city, Narcise called the time in Pittsfield a positive experience.

Joel Librizzi

E.J. Narcise
Making a point at press conference

"I wanted an opportunity to address everyone in the community and tell them how much I personally enjoyed being here, and how much we as an organization enjoyed being here for the four years," Narcise said. "I think the inevitable did happen. Professional sports is a business, a very large business. We had a better opportunity, and we took that opportunity."

Improvements needed

Narcise had nothing but praise for Pittsfield Community Services Director Vin Hebert and Recreation Director John Marchesi for their help in getting Wahconah Park ready for each of the four baseball seasons. Without them, Narcise emphasized, the team couldn't have survived in Pittsfield. He did say, however, that the city needed to do more to improve Wahconah Park. Inadequate conditions were key reasons why Chicago didn't renew its Player Development Contract at the end of 1988.

Among Narcise's major successes during the 1988 season was "Read like a pro" night, in conjunction with the Pittsfield School Department, which drew 3,700 to Wahconah Park. He said that was one program he would never forget.

"I feel badly [about leaving] because I felt we made some headway. I felt we were heading in the right direction," he continued. "I said we wanted to attach ourselves to the community and make ourselves a viable part of the community — not feel like the community existed for us."

The question that kept coming back at Narcise was whether baseball will return to Pittsfield in the future. He said that was a difficult question to answer.

"There are a lot of people in this community who deserve baseball, really deserve to have a team," he said, choosing his words carefully. "There are a lot of people who don't deserve baseball — that it would make no difference if baseball was here or not."

Narcise said he didn't buy the argument put forward by many in Pittsfield that local fans would not support a team run by out-of-town ownership.

"We're no different than the guy who owns the movie theatres. We're a form of entertainment," he added. "The people who run the different cultural events in Berkshire County are outsiders, but they're not looked on that way. We've always been looked on as outsiders."

Narcise will be moving along the baseball highway with the Revo organization. He has been named acting general manager of the Eastern League Williamsport Bills and is supervising the move from Pittsfield. He is also in line to take the reins of the Revos' Miami franchise in the Class A Florida State League.

12-20-88

96.

Why Pittsfield baseball struck out

12-18-88

Continued from Page A1

because you simply have to get the approval of so many people.

"In this case, we were talking about the mayor, the Parks Commission and the City Council all coming together to agree on something, to represent the city as one bargaining unit. In the end, we couldn't quite pull it off."

"It's disappointing," says City Councilor James R. McCaffrey, who proved to be baseball's biggest booster in the Council chamber. "I really don't think [the councilors] voted on the issue. If they voted on the lease as an issue, they would have had to vote for it — it included more money than the city ever got [for rental] before, there was zero city expenditure involved. But the whole thing got into personalities, and it unquestionably got into politics. When that happened, it was finished."

The irony is that the proposed park lease, officially rejected by Revo in a letter to McCarthy last Monday, didn't really need the Council's approval. The lease technically must be approved only by the mayor and the Parks Commission, which serves as lease-holder. Revo had always negotiated quietly with those parties in the past, and they had approved the deal worked out by McCarthy this time.

Council's role

The Council, however, injected itself into the proceedings when City Councilor Peter G. Arlos filed a Sept. 13 petition directing the Parks Commission to seek a multi-year lease with an increase in rent. Revo previously held a one-year lease with a fee of just $1.

The Council backed that Arlos petition by a 10-1 vote. And on Nov. 22, it voted 8-3 in favor of the Arlos-sponsored lease proposal Revo said he could not agree to. When McCarthy announced Dec. 2 that he and Revo had reached a one-to-one agreement on another lease, which included a $5,000 rental fee, the solicitor — hoping to avoid City Hall dissension — added that the city would not submit a lease the Council rejected. The Council, in a special meeting Dec. 7, voted it down 6-2.

As the three-month scenario unfolded, it became obvious that neither side felt comfortable working in the other's field. City Councilors knew little about the inner workings of baseball, and Revo knew little about the game of politics.

Arlos, for example, suggested the city put the ballpark "out to bid," unaware that the city, under anti-trust-exempt rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs, did not hold that bargaining chip.

Since the National Association has provisions protecting "territorial rights" of a club owner, no other team could even express interest in Revo's Pittsfield territory unless he vacated the premises. Arlos and other city officials felt that the New York-Penn League's Little Falls Mets, owned by Dalton businessman Michael Casey and Pittsfield partners Francis Devanny and Richard Murphy, might want to move to Pittsfield. Under baseball rules, they could never find out.

By the same token, Revo alienated a number of city leaders when he admitted negotiating with communities other than Pittsfield. That might have been honest. It might have been smart, from a business standpoint, to play one city off another. But it was not prudent in the political arena. Arlos accused the club owner of negotiating with the city "in bad faith," and other councilors agreed.

Ultimately, Pittsfield's hopes to keep baseball next season were killed by city politics.

By then, the lines were drawn — it was Arlos vs. Revo. Arlos demanded Revo come to Pittsfield to negotiate. Revo negotiated by mail from his Wall Street office. Arlos portrayed Revo as a cold businessman, using a city-owned park to turn a profit. Revo fueled those fires by, at one point, resisting a suggestion he split drum corps concessions with the non-profit Fourth of July Parade Committee.

On Nov. 18, there was a ray of hope. In his first Pittsfield visit since the end of the season, Revo met with McCarthy and other city officials, including McCaffrey, at City Hall. A scheduled morning session was continued, an afternoon session added.

"I honestly thought that day that he was ready to agree," McCaffrey recalls. "But he also said that, if the Arlos petition [which included a 50-50 split of drum corps concessions and a demand Revo relinquish his territorial rights] passed, he was never coming back here again. As it turned out, that's what happened."

Arlos, a former Pittsfield High athlete, does not want to be known as the man who killed Pittsfield baseball. He sees himself as a man who helped rid the city of a greedy out-of-town owner ("He had the park for $1 a year? That's ridiculous," Arlos says). He sees himself as someone who helped lead Pittsfield into a better baseball future.

"I think this is a victory for Pittsfield," says Arlos, who adds he had the solid backing of the Council when the game was over. "I think Pittsfield could have a bright [baseball] future. I think, now that we've gotten rid of Revo's team, that the city can get a team in the New York-Penn League. That would give us a team that would better suit our community."

In that vein, he may be right. Pittsfield would seem ideally suited to that Class A League, which plays only from June to September. That schedule could avoid early-spring weather problems, and sidestep almost annual conflicts over the scheduling of high school games.

"The park is, after all, for the use of the citizens of Pittsfield," Arlos points out. "With a Class A team, our kids could use the field in the spring, and we could still enjoy professional ball in the summer."

Others, however, aren't so sure that another professional team will be forthcoming. A future Pittsfield team would, after all, have to cross the same political lines that tripped up Revo.

"I think that for professional baseball to come back here, it's going to take a unified effort on the part of the City Council, the mayor, the Parks Commission, and the community," McCarthy says. "All four of those entities — and those are four rather diverse entities — have to come together."

In the game of baseball, the odds on that type if teamwork would be good. In the game of Pittsfield politics, it seems like more of a long shot.

Two cities set to win 'Revo' race

Williamsport votes tonight on baseball; Burlington confident

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Burlington, Vt., officials say they have an inside track to be the home of Stuart Revo's Eastern League baseball franchise next summer. Civic leaders in Williamsport, Pa., feel they have the better chance.

The only person who knows for sure is Revo, and he apparently isn't ready to make a decision yet.

Revo met in Burlington yesterday with Mayor Bernard Sanders, local businessmen and state officials concerning a possible relocation of the franchise to Vermont. Sanders called the meeting productive and he's very optimistic about the future.

"I would say it's an even-money shot," he told The Eagle yesterday. "Our job is to return baseball to Burlington. We think we've negotiated a reasonable agreement and hope Mr. Revo will accept it."

Revo could not be reached for comment.

Williamsport vote tonight

Meanwhile, the Williamsport City Council will be voting tonight on a proposed lease agreement for Bowman Field, a lease the city's Recreation Commission rejected on Monday. Williamsport mayor Jessie Bloom said, however, that that vote wasn't unexpected. Asked if she believed baseball would be in her city this summer, she answered with an emphatic "Yes."

The Eastern League has given Revo until tomorrow to find a home for the team that will almost certainly not return to Pittsfield next year. Team general manager E.J. Narcise has tentatively scheduled a news conference for noon tomorrow

12/15/88

Baseball
Continued on Page D6

Pittsfield baseball future

12/15/88

Continued from Page D1

to discuss the fate of the Pittsfield franchise, which spent four years at Wahconah Park as the Pittsfield Cubs.

Burlington is dangling a rent-free first year and about $1 million in state funds for renovations at Centennial Field, in return for at least a two-year agreement. Revo has been looking for a one-year deal.

"We're talking about a two-tier approach," Sanders explained. "Under this agreement, we would come up with some money in the first year and more beyond that."

Vermont officials have discussed spending at least $50,000 on renovations to restroom and concession facilities this year and as much as $1 million the following season for renovating locker rooms, the playing field and more concession stands.

Not only are city and state officials pushing for Revo's franchise, but a Burlington radio station has plans to let him know he's wanted. WIZN-FM will broadcast Revo's New York business telephone number, imploring listeners to call and ask Revo to bring his team to Vermont.

"We'd like to show Mr. Revo we love baseball and would like to have baseball return," said program director Steve Cormier.

While Burlington is putting on a full-court press, Williamsport's mayor said tonight's council vote could make a possible move to Pennsylvania a done deal. Mayor Bloom said she has been negotiating with the backing of the council, and expects them to back a two-year lease agreement.

"We've come to an agreement," she said of her negotiations with Revo. "If we vote to accept it, I would assume he would accept it also." Revo has said that the lease to be voted on "is agreeable" to him.

97.

Arlos petition before Council

Lease with Revo to be discussed

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A vote by the Pittsfield City Council tonight could go a long way toward deciding if the city will have an Eastern League franchise for the 1989 season — and perhaps beyond.

The Council may act on a petition from Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos concerning a lease between the Parks Commission and club owner Stuart Revo for the use of Wahconah Park. Among the provisions in the Arlos petition are a one-year rent payment of $5,000, an even split of concession money with the Fourth of July Parade Commission at the Precision and Pageantry drum and bugle corps competition, and a surrender of territorial rights by Revo after the 1989 season.

"I would be surprised and disappointed if it comes close to passing," said Revo in a telephone interview of a plan he has admitted having problems with. "It would say a lot about the attitude of the city toward professional baseball."

Revo has already gone on record that if the petition is approved, the team won't return. That position was echoed by Revo supporter Councilor at large James McCaffrey.

"If the petition is approved, you can say goodbye to minor league baseball in Pittsfield," McCaffrey warned. "I can't make it any clearer than that."

An urgent decision

Revo told The Eagle last night he was still waiting for a new lease proposal from City Solicitor Michael McCarthy. The two sides met Friday and progress was reported. After Revo receives the proposal, he said he would meet with his investors to discuss the team's fate.

"It's urgent this get settled," explained Revo, who attended a meeting of Eastern League owners in Newark, N.J., yesterday. "The people in the meeting were unhappy because I'm holding up the Eastern League schedule. Besides that, we have to begin selling. Every day I lose, I lose part of my selling time."

Revo updated the Eastern League owners on his franchise situation, which will come up for discussion at the baseball winter meetings in Atlanta Dec. 4 and 5.

For one councilor, a vote on the Arlos proposal might be coming at the wrong time.

"Maybe we shouldn't be putting the cart before the horse," said Ward 7 Councilor Cynthia Betters. "Out of fairness to Stuart Revo, maybe we should table it until the talks are finished. That's only fair."

The Arlos petition also calls for the franchise to provide a Pittsfield police officer to serve at all games, to hire a maintenance worker with Parks Commission approval and that the worker be supervised by Parks personnel.

A third option

While Revo awaits word from the Pittsfield City Council, a third option has opened up for his franchise.

At yesterday's league meeting, the owners approved the transfer of the Williamsport, Pa., franchise to Hagerstown, Md. That means Revo could possibly move his team to Pennsylvania. Burlington, Vt., and Old Orchard Beach, Maine, have also been mentioned as possible landing sites, but if the team can't stay in Pittsfield, the league would seem to prefer Williamsport. Wher-

Revo lease on the agenda
Continued on Page D3

11/22/88

Revo lease on tap tonight

Continued from Page D1

ever Revo ends up he will be affiliated with the Seattle Mariner organization.

"We're under some degree of pressure from the league to leave," Revo said. "It would be more convenient from a scheduling standpoint if we moved [to Williamsport]. That will not, however, be a prime consideration."

Williamsport officials, however, haven't heard anything about a possible move from Revo or the Eastern League. Mayor Jessie Bloom was waiting for some kind of call yesterday — a call that never came.

"They're sure awful quiet. He [Revo] knew I'd like to have something to take to our City Council meeting [tonight], and I haven't heard from him," she said. "We'd like to have the team here next year, but it has to be an agreement we both can live with."

To date, Arlos has been the most vocal critic of Revo's lease arrangements with the city and presented his plan in response. The franchise owner said he's wondering if the Arlos proposal has widespread city support, a question that could be answered tonight.

"Right now, I might be willing to believe that it's one man's opinion. If the City Council goes on record as supporting things we're opposed to, it would no longer make sense to believe that," said Revo. "We'll see Tuesday [tonight], won't we?"

11-22-88

78.

City Council approves Arlos petition for baseball lease

Action seen as blow to Pittsfield's chances of keeping pro franchise

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The fate of professional baseball in Pittsfield for 1989 is still twisting in the wind after the City Council voted in favor of a proposed Wahconah Park lease that has been criticized by Eastern League franchise owner Stuart Revo.

By an 8-3 vote, the council approved a petition from City Councilor Peter Arlos that directs the Parks Commission to lease Wahconah Park to Revo under conditions which include a split of concession revenue with the Fourth of July Parade Committee during the drum and bugle competition, and the surrender by Revo of territorial rights to Pittsfield after the 1989 season. The proposal also includes a $5,000 rent payment for a one-year contract.

The petition's passage could be a blow to the city's hopes for a professional team in 1989, since Revo had said previously he would not sign a lease that included the release of territorial rights. Last night, however, Revo toned down his reaction.

"I would not rule out signing a lease," said Revo, reached at his New York City home last night. "I would continue to negotiate with the city in good faith, but I have no intention of renouncing my territorial rights. I'll take no more and accept no less than any other baseball operator. If that's a condition of the lease, I will not sign it."

Legally binding?

A major remaining question concerns whether the council action is binding on the Parks Commission and City Solicitor Michael McCarthy, who is negotiating with Revo for a new lease.

"I haven't seen the petition, so I'm still in the dark about it," said McCarthy, who hopes to review the Arlos document today. "More likely than not, the position the City Council takes is advisory to the Parks Commission rather than binding. The Parks Commission would take into account the opinion of the City Council."

According to McCarthy, if the lease doesn't require any expenditure of city funds, the council need not formally approve it.

McCarthy said a new lease proposal should arrive at Revo's New York office today. The proposal was based on discussions held last Friday. The city solicitor and Revo agreed to keep the terms of any proposals private, so McCarthy would not say if any of the terms in the Arlos petition are part of his response to Revo.

Revo has said he will have a lease agreement with some city by the Winter Baseball meetings in Atlanta, Dec. 4-5.

Sending a message

Revo admitted he didn't understand all the ramifications of last night's council vote, but said it sent a strong signal to him about professional baseball in Pittsfield.

"One has to wonder very seriously how much the people on the City Council want professional baseball in Pittsfield. My judgment is they don't want it very much," said a disappointed Revo. "It's indisputable the City Council is sending a message that's loud and clear. It's been heard by me and the Eastern League and pretty soon it'll be heard by all of baseball."

The message given by the council during last night's debate was they want baseball — but they want it on their terms.

"We all want baseball," said Arlos, who has led the fight for a tougher lease agreement. "What we don't want is the city to be taken advantage of and that's exactly what has been happening."

Arlos cited agreements other Eastern League teams have in Reading and Harrisburg, Pa. The Reading Phillies, playing in a city of about 75,000, pay $1 a year on a 10-12 year lease. The new owners paid $350,000 for a new stadium roof last season and have made a total of $700,000 in park improvements. The team controls concessions, but beer sales are split between the team

Baseball lease
Continued on Page D2

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"It's not a final propsoal of any kind, it's just a start of negotiations," Mayor Bloom told the Eagle last night. "I think it has put us on good footing."

Williamsport opened up as a possible location for Revo when the Eastern League Monday approved the move to Hagerstown, Md., of what had been the Williamsport team. The former Cleveland farm team paid a $5,000 lease in Williamsport last year plus one cent for each person who attended, which amounted to an additional $10,000 last year. Mayor Bloom wouldn't say if that was part of the Revo proposal or what the city would offer back. She confirmed Williamsport is looking for a two-year lease.

Burlington, Vt., Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and Atlantic County, N.J. have also been mentioned as possible landing sites for Revo's Eastern League team, that will be affiliated with the Seattle Mariners next season.

Revo said the clock is running out on Pittsfield, and he's looking for movement.

"Professional baseball needs to be promoted by the influential people in the city. Even if I liked everything in the lease, that particular issue would need to be addressed," he said. "Public and private officials need to step forward and work quickly on our behalf, so we can turn around this adversarial climate." 11-23-88

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To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

All the talk about the double-A baseball franchise is boring me. Let them have it in Williamsport or Burlington [Eagle, Dec. 17]. What about Pittsfield? How about making an extension of the senior Babe Ruth league to 19 to 21 years old. People say there is nothing for young adults to do in Pittsfield. Well, they are right. Come on, let's have somthing constructive for the young adults like myself to do.

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It seems that Mr. Biss is concerned that we might be tied down to a "crappy class A club."

Being the father of a professional baseball player who is currently assigned to Class A, I would like to alleviate any concern that Mr. Biss might have.

The majority of the present-day major league ball players did not get their starts in Yankee Stadium or Fenway Park. No, it was in places like Pulaski and Wyethville, Va., and Johnson City, Tenn., and maybe Pittsfield.

The ballplayers that are assigned to Class A are young, talented and just beginning their professional careers. Every time they take the field, they give 100 percent in order to move on toward their goal of reaching the major leagues.

Unfortunately, as we have shown the Joe Buzas, the Pat McKernans and the Stuart Revos, we really don't care what brand of baseball the city will end up with. We probably won't show up at the park anyway.

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City Council app

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Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	6	4	.600	—
Philadelphia	6	4	.600	—
New Jersey	5	5	.500	1
Boston	4	6	.400	2
Washington	2	6	.250	3
Charlotte	2	7	.222	3½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Detroit	9	1	.900	—
Cleveland	7	1	.875	1
Atlanta	6	4	.600	3
Chicago	5	4	.556	3½
Milwaukee	3	4	.429	4½
Indiana	1	9	.100	8

Monday's Games

Houston 117, Atlanta 113
Utah 117, L.A. Clippers 98

Yesterday's games

Late Games Not Included

Cleveland 114, Boston 102
Philadelphia 130, Washington 103
Detroit 99, Charlotte 93
Indiana 105, Milwaukee 91
L.A. Lakers 110, New York 98
New Jersey at Denver, (n)
Portland at Seattle, (n)
Chicago at Sacramento, (n)

Cavs, 114-102

CLEVELAND (114)

Sanders 6-10 3-3 15, Nance 7-14 8-10 22, Daugherty 7-9 2-2 16, Harper 7-13 4-4 18, Price 9-12 10-12 28, Ehlo 1-3 0-0 2, Williams 3-7 4-6 10, Rollins 1-1 0-0 2, Valentine 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 41-70 32-39 114.

BOSTON (102)

Paxson 6-13 0-0 12, McHale 7-13 6-8 20, Parish 6-15 4-4 16, Johnson 2-7 2-3 6, Ainge 11-19 4-4 28, Lewis 2-5 0-0 4, Lohaus 4-4 1-2 9, Shaw 2-7 0-0 4, Acres 1-2 0-0 2, Grandison 0-0 1-2 1, Rivas 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-85 18-23 102.

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	6	2	.750	—
Houston	7	3	.700	—
Dallas	6	3	.667	½
Denver	6	3	.667	½
San Antonio	2	6	.250	4
Miami	0	7	.000	5½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
L.A. Lakers	7	2	.778	—
Golden State	5	4	.556	2
Seattle	4	4	.500	2½
Phoenix	4	5	.444	3
Portland	4	5	.444	3
L.A. Clippers	4	6	.400	3½
Sacramento	1	7	.125	5½

Today's games

Charlotte at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Washington at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Utah, 9:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Seattle at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Milwaukee at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Dallas, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 9:30 p.m.
Seattle at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.
New Jersey at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

Pistons, 99-93

DETROIT (99)

Mahorn 4-8 2-2 10, Dantley 1-8 4-4 6, Laimbeer

Patrick Division

	W	L	T	Pts
NY Rangers	11	7	3	25
Pittsburgh	10	10	0	20
Washington	9	9	2	20
Philadelphia	9	13	1	19
New Jersey	8	10	3	19
NY Islanders	7	11	2	16

Adams Division

	W	L	T	Pts
Montreal	12	8	3	27
Boston	9	7	5	23
Buffalo	8	11	2	18
Quebec	7	12	2	16
Hartford	7	12	1	15

Monday's Games

Montreal 4, New York Ran
Toronto 4, St. Louis 0

Yesterday's games

Late Game Not Includ

Los Angeles 6, Philadelphia
Washington 4, New York Is
Buffalo at Vancouver, (n)

Kings, 6-

Los Angeles
Philadelphia

First Period—1, Los Ange esne 8 (Tonelli, Duguay), 13 Angeles, Duchesne 9 (Tonelli, 15:29 (sh). Penalties—Hex served by Mellanby (slashi Fenton, LA (roughing Chychrun, Phi (roughing), 3 ters, LA (interference), 4:22. LA (hooking), 11:18; Wat (hooking), 13:43; Watters, ing), 17:06; Nicholls, LA (ille 17:44.

Second Period—3, Philadel 19 (Tocchet, Zezel), 8:17 (p Angeles, Robitaille 15 (Laidla Penalties—Kennedy, LA, mi

Baseball lease

Continued from Page D1

and the city.

In Harrisburg, the Senators paid $37,500 for the first two years of a five-year permit to use their stadium, and will pay $42,500 for the next three. The Senators have hired a firm to run concessions for the team.

"My petition isn't outrageous," Arlos told the council. "When you discuss my petition in this light, I'm being a Santa Claus to him [Revo]. When you discuss what other places are paying, this is a very mild petition."

Lease sent to Williamsport

Revo isn't sitting back waiting for a final Pittsfield lease arrangement. He sent a lease proposal to the city of Williamsport, Pa., yesterday afternoon, and Mayor Jessie Bloom said she received permission from the Williamsport City Council to move ahead with negotiations.

"It's not a final propsoal of any kind, it's just a start of negotiations," Mayor Bloom told the Eagle last night. "I think it has put us on good footing."

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99.

Attendance pleases Cubs' GM

Continued from Page D1

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The Cubs host the Albany-Colonie Yankees in the first of a four-game series tomorrow, with game time set for 7:45. Pittsfield will also host the Yankees Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, with series against the Reading Phillies and Williamsport Bills to follow. The Cubs, who conclude a seven-game trip tonight at Vermont, don't hit the road again until Aug. 1.

Coming promotions include a guest appearance by Hall-of-Fame pitcher Bob Feller tomorrow, two visits from the Miami Maniac mascot, Light Night (a fireworks promotion planned as a salute to the coming of night baseball to Chicago's Wrigley Field) on July 30, and Bat Night on Aug. 10.

* * * *

Yet the Cubs' attendance increase has not just come due to gimmick promotions and giveaways.

"A lot of our promotions have been community-related, and people-related," Narcise points out. "When we drew 3,700 people for Read-Like-A-Pro, that, to me, was just the greatest."

That promotion, which attracted 3,785 fans to the park on June 24, followed up a series of visits by Cubs' players to city elementary schools. Ray Thoma, Joe Girardi, Bryan House and Mike Harkey participated in the program, urging youngsters to read two books. The children could then exchange two book reports for two tickets to the game.

"When I first got here, I stressed 'Community,' " said Narcise, "and we have gotten players out into the community. They've been going into the schools, they've been going to the Little Leagues [for clinics]. That makes the players feel more like a part of the community, and the players have been fantastic in that regard. Also, that makes the kids want to come down to the park. A kid will come home and say, 'Hey, Mom and Dad, Hector [Villanueva] came to my school today. Let's go down and see him play.' That's how you build the base for your support."

Other coming Cub promotions will help support area charity organizations. The August schedule will a Jimmy Fund Night, a Shriners' Night and a night to support the Polio-Plus program, the official charity of the International Rotary Club. In promotions like those, the charity group buys tickets for half-price, resells them at full price, and keeps the difference for its proceeds.

"As a part of the community, we want to give something back to the community as well," Narcise said. "This is our way of doing that."

* * * *

Narcise hopes to expand the team's support to an from the community in the future.

"Next year," he says, "I'd like to expand the Read Like-A-Pro program to towns, like Dalton, Great Bar rington, North Adams and in other areas."

The Cubs' ownership has not yet confirmed the clu will be returning in 1989. Minority partner Larry Revo Pittsfield's chief operating officer for the first thre seasons and now the co-owner and president of th Charleston, S.C., Rainbows of the South Atlanti League, said there is "no news" regarding the Cubs future in Pittsfield. Stuart Revo, Larry's brother an the Pittsfield team's majority owner, could not b reached for comment.

Narcise, however, is already looking ahead.

"I'm operating on the theory," he says, "that we'r going to be here next year and beyond. I'm excite about the way things have gone, and I'm excited abou where they're going."

7-20-88

Revo studies Binghamton lease

Continued from Page D1

past season expired Sept. 9.

That lease, similar to ones signed by Revo and the city in previous years, called for a rental fee of $1. The city has also sought to increase the fee for the 1989 season and beyond, and Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos has said he thinks the city should get a "minimum of $5,000" for use of the city-owned facility.

At that same Sept. 14 meeting, Arlos said he felt the city should put Wahconah Park "out to bid," possibly to attract another team if an agreement could not be reached with Revo. As long as Revo holds the Pittsfield franchise, however, no other club may express an interest in coming to the city under territorial rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body for all leagues and clubs in the minor-league baseball structure.

Arlos said he "was very disappointed" to hear of Revo's negotiations with Binghamton.

"It's obvious he's been negotiating behind our backs," Arlos said yesterday. "He keeps talking about a commitment to Pittsfield, but in fact, it seems he's not making any commitment here at all. I think he's acting in bad faith."

Parks Commission member Clifford Nilan, who formerly chaired that body and has worked on previous leases between the city and the Eastern League club, said the fact Revo has negotiated with Binghamton before talking to Pittsfield is "a sore point."

"His first concern should be what's happening here," Nilan said last night. "It's getting to the point where we just have to know what he's got planned for next year. We have to sit down to know what he's planning. He's kept us totally in the dark so far. The commission hasn't heard a word from him."

Invitation to leave?

Revo said he wants to meet with city officials. In a Sept. 15 letter to Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, Revo said he wanted to know the city's "actual position prior to October." In that same letter, he expressed concern over the city's stance in terms of the lease, and called the proposal to put Wahconah Park out to bid "a thinly disguised invitation for us to leave."

Revo said that the city has not yet responded to that letter, which has been turned over to the office of City Solicitor Michael McCarthy. McCarthy also has taken under advisement a letter from Eastern League President Charles Eshbach outlining the National Association's territorial rules.

Fans' group formed

No meetings involving Revo, the Pittsfield Parks Commission or the City Council have been scheduled, but one meeting on the subject is planned for tonight.

A group of Pittsfield baseball fans, headed by Ellen Meunier of 12 State St., will hold an open meeting at 7 p.m. at the Pilgrim Holiness Church on Wahconah Street.

Meunier, a member of the Pittsfield Cubs' Booster Club, says her group has started a petition, which she hopes to submit to the City Council for its meeting Oct. 25. The petition asks that the Council not pursue "unattainable" goals, such as a prohibitive lease and rental fee, in dealing with a baseball franchise.

"We're not fighting for Revo," said Meunier. "But we want to be sure the Council knows, if they force him out of town, it could hurt the future of all baseball here. We don't want that to happen."

10-13-88

Revo downplays consideration of Binghamton lease

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A city official in Binghamton, N.Y., said yesterday that Stuart Revo, owner of Pittsfield's professional baseball franchise, has a copy of, and is considering, a lease to operate his team at a yet-to-be-built stadium there in 1990. But Revo, who has yet to begin negotiations with the city of Pittsfield for a lease at Wahconah Park next season, denied last night he had any firm plans to move the club.

The team, known for the past four seasons as the Pittsfield Cubs, lost its name and major-league affiliation when the Chicago Cubs announced they would relocate their Double-A franchise in Charlotte, N.C., next season. Revo, who still owns the franchise, is still seeking a major-league Player Development Contract for next season.

Revo has possession of a lease already approved "in concept," by the Binghamton City Council, said Joseph Garbarino, an executive assistant to Binghamton Mayor Juanita Crabb. Garbarino did not disclose terms of the lease, which includes terms regarding maintenance, concessions and other points.

Revo, speaking from his parents' home in the Buffalo, N.Y., suburb of Williamsville, admitted he has the lease, and that he had "some input" into it when it was drawn up last month.

'A file full' of leases

"I have a hundred leases from Binghamton," Revo said. "I have a whole file full of them. Yes, I've had contact with the people there, and I'm sure I'll continue to talk to them, but we've been talking for several years now."

Binghamton has long been rumored as a potential home for Revo's team, but the Binghamton city government has often hedged on plans for a stadium. The stadium project has been on-again off-again since 1981.

The Binghamton City Council, however, voted by a 5-4 margin Sept. 21 to approve stadium construction, which is scheduled to begin next spring. The proposed ballpark is slated to open in the spring of 1990, Garbarino said. The stadium is largely being financed through a $1.4 million state loan, which would be paid off with stadium profits. The city also has generated $85,000 in funding from private donations.

Also at the Sept. 21 meeting, the Binghamton council, by the same vote, approved the tentative lease between the city and the Revo franchise, Garbarino said. Both Garbarino and Revo said there has been no agreement, written or verbal between the parties. But the Binghamton official was optimistic that Revo would sign the pact.

"Obviously hope he'll find [the lease] agreeable," Garbarino said. "He's had it for a few weeks now, and we've been in regular discussion with him during that time."

Revo, in turn, denied he was on the verge of an agreement, and expressed concern about the latest Binghamton stadium project.

"They still have a long, long way to go," he said. "That lease would have to be approved by the state [Urban Development Commission], it would have to be approved environmentally. And remember, the vote in the first place was only a 5-4 vote after a great deal of flip-flops. There's no assurance those flip-flops won't happen again."

Revo's negotiations with Binghamton come at a time when negotiations with the City of Pittsfield have been non-existent. Revo has admitted he's been exploring alternative sites for his team since the Pittsfield City Council, at a meeting Sept. 14, proposed a five-year lease for the use of Wahconah Park. The one-year lease for this

Revo studies Binghamton lease

10-13-88

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Attendance pleases Cubs' GM

Continued from Page D1

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"As a part of the community, we want to give something back to the community as well," Narcise said. "This is our way of doing that."

* * * *

Narcise hopes to expand the team's support to and from the community in the future.

"Next year," he says, "I'd like to expand the Read-Like-A-Pro program to towns, like Dalton, Great Barrington, North Adams and in other areas."

The Cubs' ownership has not yet confirmed the club will be returning in 1989. Minority partner Larry Revo, Pittsfield's chief operating officer for the first three seasons and now the co-owner and president of the Charleston, S.C., Rainbows of the South Atlantic League, said there is "no news" regarding the Cubs' future in Pittsfield. Stuart Revo, Larry's brother and the Pittsfield team's majority owner, could not be reached for comment.

Narcise, however, is already looking ahead.

"I'm operating on the theory," he says, "that we're going to be here next year and beyond. I'm excited about the way things have gone, and I'm excited about where they're going." 7-20-88

Revo studies Binghamton lease

Continued from Page D1

past season expired Sept. 9.

That lease, similar to ones signed by Revo and the city in previous years, called for a rental fee of $1. The city has also sought to increase the fee for the 1989 season and beyond, and Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos has said he thinks the city should get a "minimum of $5,000" for use of the city-owned facility.

At that same Sept. 14 meeting, Arlos said he felt the city should put Wahconah Park "out to bid," possibly to attract another team if an agreement could not be reached with Revo. As long as Revo holds the Pittsfield franchise, however, no other club may express an interest in coming to the city under territorial rules of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body for all leagues and clubs in the minor-league baseball structure.

Arlos said he "was very disappointed" to hear of Revo's negotiations with Binghamton.

"It's obvious he's been negotiating behind our backs," Arlos said yesterday. "He keeps talking about a commitment to Pittsfield, but in fact, it seems he's not making any commitment here at all. I think he's acting in bad faith."

Parks Commission member Clifford Nilan, who formerly chaired that body and has worked on previous leases between the city and the Eastern League club, said the fact Revo has negotiated with Binghamton before talking to Pittsfield is "a sore point."

"His first concern should be what's happening here," Nilan said last night. "It's getting to the point where we just have to know what he's got planned for next year. We have to sit down to know what he's planning. He's kept us totally in the dark so far. The commission hasn't heard a word from him."

Invitation to leave?

Revo said he wants to meet with city officials. In a Sept. 15 letter to Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski, Revo said he wanted to know the city's "actual position prior to October." In that same letter, he expressed concern over the city's stance in terms of the lease, and called the proposal to put Wahconah Park out to bid "a thinly disguised invitation for us to leave."

Revo said that the city has not yet responded to that letter, which has been turned over to the office of City Solicitor Michael McCarthy. McCarthy also has taken under advisement a letter from Eastern League President Charles Eshbach outlining the National Association's territorial rules.

Fans' group formed

No meetings involving Revo, the Pittsfield Parks Commission or the City Council have been scheduled, but one meeting on the subject is planned for tonight.

A group of Pittsfield baseball fans, headed by Ellen Meunier of 12 State St., will hold an open meeting at 7 p.m. at the Pilgrim Holiness Church on Wahconah Street.

Meunier, a member of the Pittsfield Cubs' Booster Club, says her group has started a petition, which she hopes to submit to the City Council for its meeting Oct. 25. The petition asks that the Council not pursue "unattainable" goals, such as a prohibitive lease and rental fee, in dealing with a baseball franchise.

"We're not fighting for Revo," said Meunier. "But we want to be sure the Council knows, if they force him out of town, it could hurt the future of all baseball here. We don't want that to happen." 10-13-88

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vo downplays nsideration of nghamton lease

ale

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

d—1, N SFIELD — A city official in Binghamton, N.Y., said yes-onne), that Stuart Revo, owner of Pittsfield's professional baseball lacDer Ferra ise, has a copy of, and is considering, a lease to operate his 4, Ne at a yet-to-be-built stadium there in 1990. But Revo, who has ese), (hold begin negotiations with the city of Pittsfield for a lease at ice), 8 onah Park next season, denied last night he had any firm 9 d—5, to move the club.

3 (pp) e team, known for the past four seasons as the Pittsfield Cubs, oberts its name and major-league affiliation when the Chicago Cubs t, N (hold unced they would relocate their Double-A franchise in Char-11:1 Dir , N.C., next season. Revo, who still owns the franchise, is still ilan, king a major-league Player Development Contract for next 7, N son.

tch) Revo has possession of a lease already approved "in concept," by ar hing Binghamton City Council, said Joseph Garbarino, an executive ng), sistant to Binghamton Mayor Juanita Crabb. Garbarino did not —Ha close terms of the lease, which includes terms regarding main-por enance, concessions and other points.

of Revo, speaking from his parents' home in the Buffalo, N.Y., rd, w suburb of Williamsville, admitted he has the lease, and that he had "some input" into it when it was drawn up last month.

'A file full' of leases

"I have a hundred leases from Binghamton," Revo said. "I have a whole file full of them. Yes, I've had contact with the people there, and I'm sure I'll continue to talk to them, but we've been talking for several years now."

Binghamton has long been rumored as a potential home for Revo's team, but the Binghamton city government has often hedged on plans for a stadium. The stadium project has been on-again off-again since 1981.

The Binghamton City Council, however, voted by a 5-4 margin Sept. 21 to approve stadium construction, which is scheduled to begin next spring. The proposed ballpark is slated to open in the spring of 1990, Garbarino said. The stadium is largely being financed through a $1.4 million state loan, which would be paid off with stadium profits. The city also has generated $85,000 in funding from private donations.

Also at the Sept. 21 meeting, the Binghamton council, by the same vote, approved the tentative lease between the city and the Revo franchise, Garbarino said. Both Garbarino and Revo said there has been no agreement, written or verbal between the parties. But the Binghamton official was optimistic that Revo would sign the pact.

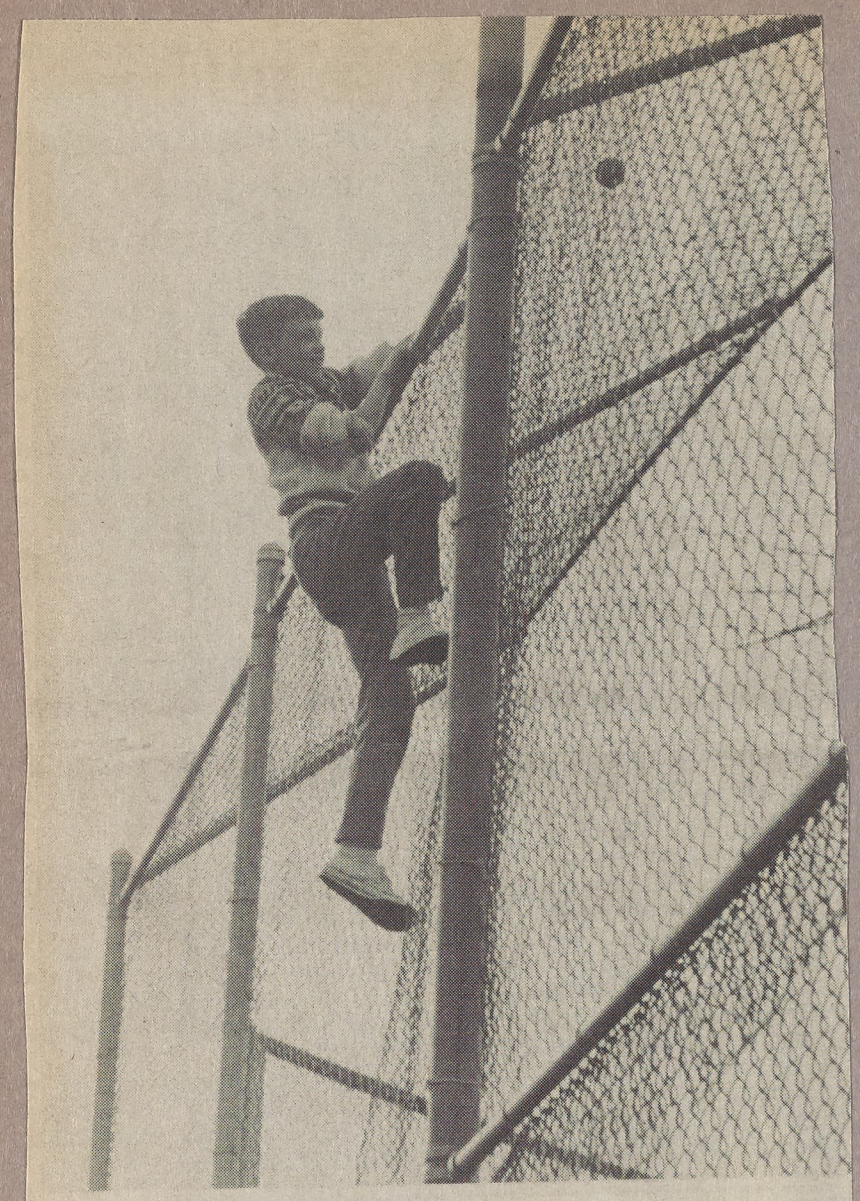
"Obviously hope he'll find [the lease] agreeable," Garbarino said. "He's had it for a few weeks now, and we've been in regular discussion with him during that time."

Revo, in turn, denied he was on the verge of an agreement, and expressed concern about the latest Binghamton stadium project.

"They still have a long, long way to go," he said. "That lease would have to be approved by the state [Urban Development Commission], it would have to be approved environmentally. And remember, the vote in the first place was only a 5-4 vote after a great deal of flip-flops. There's no assurance those flip-flops won't happen again."

Revo's negotiations with Binghamton come at a time when negotiations with the City of Pittsfield have been non-existent. Revo has admitted he's been exploring alternative sites for his team since the Pittsfield City Council, at a meeting Sept. 14, proposed a five-year lease for the use of Wahconah Park. The one-year lease for this

Revo studies Binghamton lease 10-13-88



Retriever

With the baseball season under way, rescue efforts such as this will be needed now and then. The scene is Deming Park in 1966.

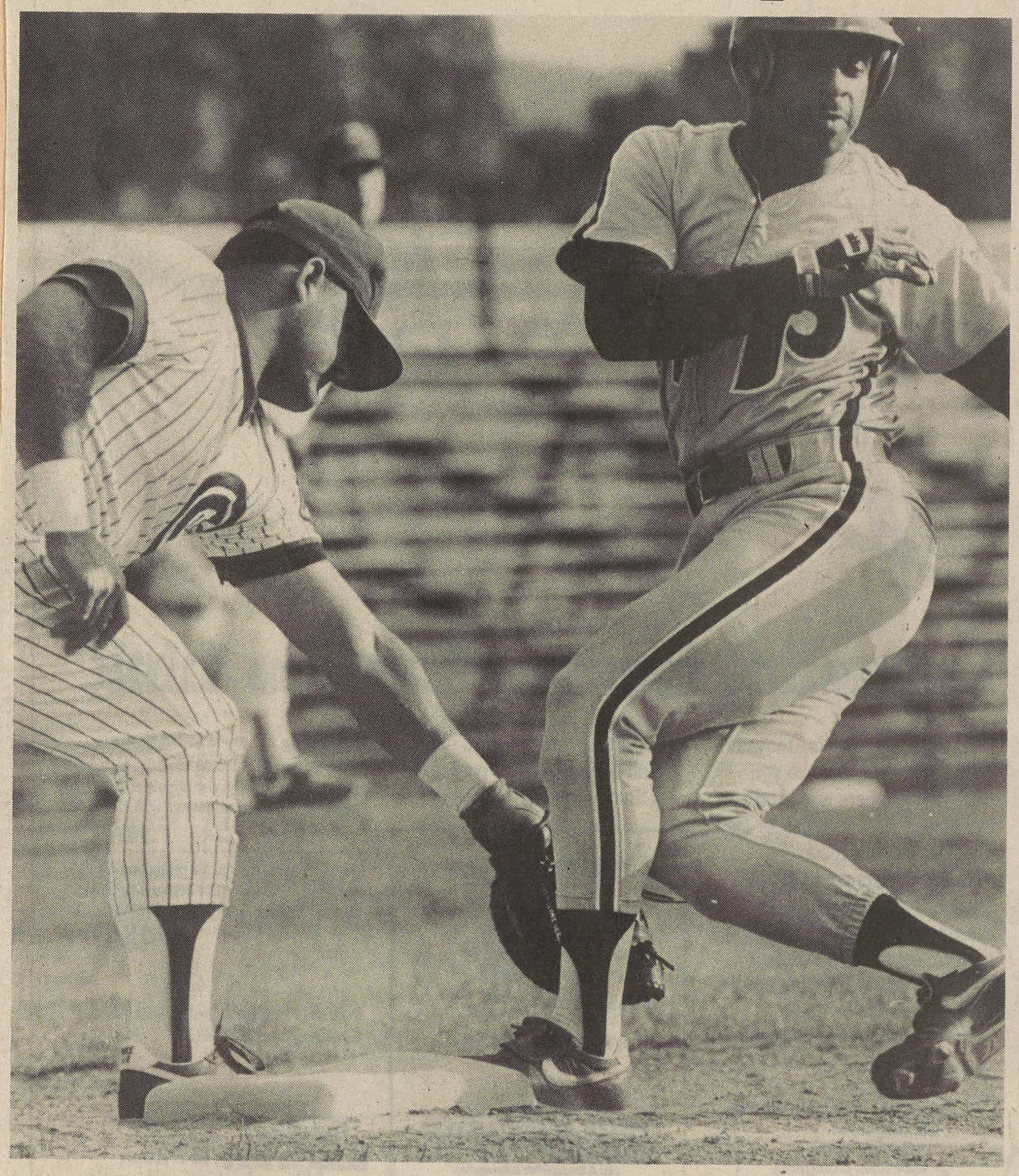
4/9/88

SPRINGING INTO ACTION despite a statewide strike, Pittsfield baseball umpire Maury Vandesteene emphatically makes the call as St. Joseph's catcher Jeff Contenta tags out Mount Anthony's Sean Valley (6) during yesterday's game at Deming Field. Game story on Page D2.

Leslie Harrison

4/14/88

Pittsfield Cubs drop 2 to Reading



Susan Plageman

BACK IN TIME is Reading baserunner Jose Leiva, who reaches first base ahead of a pickoff throw to Pittsfield first baseman Hector Villanueva yesterday at Wahconah Park. Leiva scored twice and knocked in two runs as the Phillies downed the Cubs 8-2 in the first game of a double-header.

By Bill Everhart
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — One way to lose a ballgame is to get blown apart early, which is the kind of loss that can be filed away and forgotten. Another kind of loss is by Chinese Water Torture, an infuriating one-run defeat that tends to linger in the mind.

The Pittsfield Cubs got to experience both last night, as the Reading Phillies swept a double-header at Wahconah Park by scores of 8-2 and 2-1. In the second game, the Cubs were one strike away from victory before Reading tied it, and the locals left the bases loaded in each of the last two innings.

Pittsfield has now lost two double-headers in the last three days, sandwiched around a victory Wednesday. The Cubs will try to get turned around tonight when they meet the sixth-place Phillies again at 7:45.

Phillies 2, Cubs 1

This game earned a 10 on the aggravation meter as the Cubs locked themselves and a small crowd of 379 in the torture chamber and threw away the key.

Cub starter Jackie Davidson, sporting a hopping fastball and accurate off-speed stuff, went into the final inning of the scheduled seven-inning second game with a 1-0 lead. With one out, Jeff Kaye became the first Philly to reach second base when he rattled a double off the center field fence.

Tony Brown picked on an 0-2 pitch and singled into right, sending pinch runner Chuck McElroy to third. Davidson rallied to blow three strikes past pinch hitter Rick Lundblade and jumped ahead of Rick Parker 0-2. Before the next pitch, Brown took off for second on a delayed double steal. When Davidson wheeled and ran toward first, McElroy took off from third. As Brown was caught in a rundown, McElroy, the winning pitcher in the first game, cruised home unopposed

Cubs lose 2 games
Continued on Page D12

6/10/82

6/10/87

Cubs lose 2 games; pitching help coming

Continued from Page D1

to score the tying run.

"It was totally my fault," said Davidson of Brown's successful decoy enabling McElroy to score. "I messed up an easy fundamental play and it cost us the game. I don't know what was going on in my mind. And it was really tough to go out there the next inning and start all over again after coming within one strike of a victory."

It didn't appear as if Davidson would have to go out for the next inning after Rich Amaral began the bottom of the seventh inning off reliever Brad Moore by singling to left and stealing second and third. The Phillies brought the infield in and Hector Villanueva hit a screaming liner right at shortstop Parker for the first out. Parker then knocked down John Lewis's hard grounder with his chin and gunned him down at first. Two walks loaded the bases before Julio Valdez flied to center to end the inning.

In the top of the eighth, Davidson (2-4) doled out his only walk of the game to Jose Leiva and surrendered singles to Shane Turner and Greg Legg for the winning run. The Cubs loaded the bases with one out in the last of the eighth on a single by Jim Bullinger (his third hit of the game), a bunt single by Ced Landrum and an intentional walk to Amaral after Landrum stole second. But Warren Magee retired Villanueva on a popup and Lewis on a fly to center to record his first save. Moore (2-4) got the win.

The Cubs scored their first run in the third when Amaral, who was 4-for-7 in the twin bill, singled, moved to third on Villanueva's single and Lewis's groundout, and scored on Ray Thoma's perfectly placed safety squeeze bunt down the third base line. Pittsfield left the bases loaded that inning, however, and stranded 14 runners overall.

Offensively, the Cubs sorely miss Bryan House, a .322 hitter who can only pinch hit because of a groin pull, and Jerome Walton, a .333 hitter who can only pinch run because of a bruised thumb. Ace pitcher Mike Harkey remains sidelined with a hamstring pull.

"We're missing three of the top players in the league, and if we can get them back and stay healthy we'll be all right," assesses Cub manager Jim Essian. "Neither Williamsport nor Harrisburg ahead of us [in the standings] nor anyone behind us appears capable of running away with the pennant. We just have to keep our heads up and get through this."

Phillies 8, Cubs 2

Reading rattled 12 singles around Wahconah Park to win the first game handily. The Cubs gave Rich Scheid (5-2) a 2-0 lead but the southpaw, who was working on three days' rest, surrendered two runs in the third and four in the fourth.

Scheid retired the first two batters in the fourth but Gary Berman walked and McElroy bounced a seeing-eye single into right. Leiva banged an 0-2 pitch into left for a single, sending in Berman to put the Phillies ahead to stay at 3-2.

Turner followed with a single to right on another 0-2 pitch, chasing in McElroy. Singles by Legg and Lundblade produced two more runs before Scheid got Steve DeAngelis to fly out, ending the inning.

Reading collected two insurance runs off John Green in the sixth on singles by Leiva and Turner, a fielder's choice ground by Legg, and Lundblade's single.

Pittsfield got runs in the first and second off McElroy (4-6), who looks like a left-handed Oil Can Boyd. Landrum began the first with a double, went to third on a groundout, and trotted home on Villanueva's fly to right. In the second, a walk to Lewis, Bullinger's sacrifice bunt and Mike Tullier's single to center produced another run.

* * * *

CUB NOTES: With a couple of roster spots open and the doubleheaders piling up, the Cubs will receive some pitching help in the form of a phenom from Class A and a veteran from Class AAA.

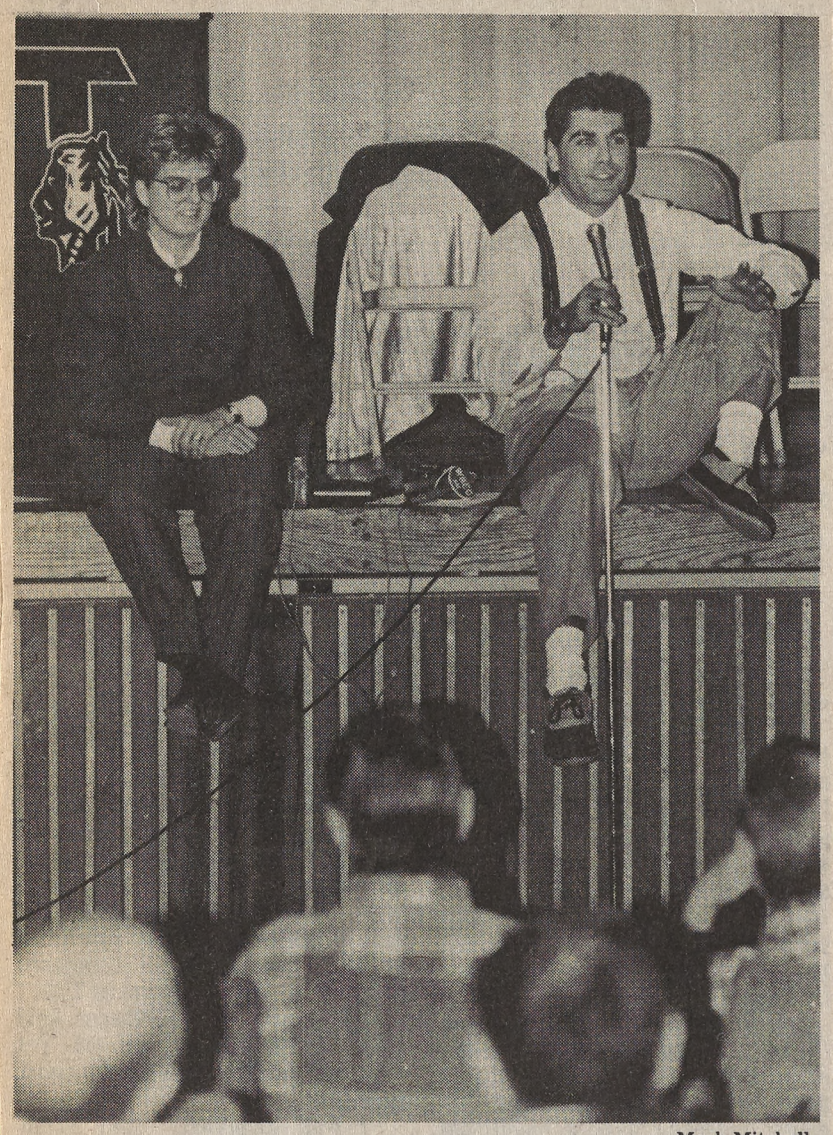
Right-hander Bill Kazmierczak, who will start tonight against the Phillies, brings some stunning statistics with him from Winston-Salem of the Carolina League. He is 9-2 with a 1.34 ERA, has struck out 93 batters in 87 innings, and has thrown two no-hitters. He is the only pitcher in the Carolina League's 44-year history to throw two no-hitters in the same season and he did it in a stretch of six weeks.

Arriving from Iowa of the American Association is Joe Kraemer, a southpaw who was 3-3 with a 4.50 ERA working out of the Iowa bullpen. He will start Sunday's game.

Harkey won't pitch in the Reading series as the strained hamstring he suffered against Vermont last Thursday continues to progress slowly. Baseball history contains several sad stories of pitchers who ruined their arms favoring leg injuries and the Cubs aren't going to take any chances with Harkey, who is 8-2 with a 1.25 ERA.

"His arm comes first; he has to be 100 percent before he comes back," says pitching coach Grant Jackson. "We're not going to risk his career to win a game."

6/10/87



Mark Mitchell

INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE of last night's open forum at Taconic High School is reflected by Pittsfield Cubs' general manager E.J. Narcise, right, and Robin Wadsworth, the team's director of community relations. The event attracted 40 people.

Dollar bills are dead, and pencils are back

Cubs' GM Narcise hits all the issues for 40 at Taconic open forum

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The dollar-bill-only policy at the concession stand is a dead issue, pencils will accompany game programs, and they're still working on the sun.

Those were some of the conclusions reached last night as Pittsfield Cubs' general manager E.J. Narcise spent 90 minutes entertaining questions, complaints and suggestions from the 40 people who turned out at Taconic High School for the team's first "open forum."

"On a night like this, with the weather the way it is and with so many other things going on, I thought it was great," Narcise said of the turnout by the lively crowd that addressed everything from old-timers' discounts to the location of the pay phone at Wahconah Park.

"I was more enthused by the questions than with the turnout," said Narcise, the 29-year-old New Jersey native who replaces Larry Revo in the Pittsfield front office this year.

Revenues up 30 percent

The efforts of Narcise and his front-office assistants Robin Wadsworth and Cathy Bramer have already been reflected in the cash register, the new GM said.

In advertising revenue and season ticket sales, "We're up 30 percent over where we were a year ago at this time," Narcise said proudly. Repeating the philosophy of Stuart Revo, the team's principal owner and Narcise's boss, the general manager loudly proclaimed: "We are committed to keeping professional baseball in Pittsfield. And you can quote me on that."

SPORTS

Although Narcise admitted there is still no immediate solution to the setting sun in left field (games will still start after it sets), other problems are being tackled in an effort to improve the Cubs' last-place status in Eastern League attendance.

A rundown of issues

A rundown of issues and answers at last night's forum:

— The undependability of the Wahconah Park scoreboard and its keeper: There will be a full-time scorekeeper, and the lights will all work.

— Organ music at games: Tough to find someone at the right price, "but we've signed Lou Russo to a lifetime contract to play the kazoo," Narcise joked.

— Inflate attendance figures, as other teams have been accused of doing, to improve Pittsfield's image: Bad idea and could create tax problems.

— Improve communication with North and South Berkshire: New ticket outlets are being opened in North Adams, Adams, Williamstown, Dalton and Great Barrington so fans from those communities won't have to stand in line at Wahconah Park.

— Involve youngsters more: Team is working with high school athletic directors for "Athlete of the Week" recognition program as well as recognition for class valedictorians "so the kids know recognition doesn't come just from athletics," Narcise said.

— Radio coverage: WTBR will broadcast 128 games and WBEC will have 36, so all 140 games will be aired one place or another, and some games on both stations.

— Pencils weren't handed out with programs last year: Team ran out, and it won't happen again.

— Get retirees and GE pensioners involved: Van shuttle service is being established for all elderly housing projects, and discounts could be arranged for large groups.

— Play games at Noel Field in North Adams, as previous Eastern League teams have done: Would like to, but untenable with liability insurance problems.

— Invite former Pittsfield Cubs back to the city for special program: Not feasible during season or during winter baseball time, but a good idea for next year's "Hot Stove League Night" program at the Hilton in February.

— Let high school teams use Wahconah Park: Western Mass. tournament games already booked, other games could be played if team is away, or if they are played early enough to not interfere with Cubs' batting practice.

— Announce major league scores during Cubs' games: No problem.

— Opening day: Scheduled May 18, with 10:30 parade starting at City Hall, and "We're trying to create as much of a carnival atmosphere as possible," Narcise said.

Slow pitch opens tonight

Softball Complex to host four tourneys

By Bob McDonough
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Perennial league champion James Jewelers will be one of the teams in action tonight as the Berkshire County Slow Pitch Softball Association opens its seventh season at the Berkshire County Softball Complex with five games.

The county's largest softball league, that plays Monday through Friday on three lighted fields at the Softball Complex, will again have 32 teams competing in three divisions.

In addition this summer, the Softball Complex will host three state tournaments and one regional event.

This marks the first time the Complex has hosted four major tournaments, "and it's because we have the facilities to handle it," said league secretary-treasurer Jim Bridges, who operates the Softball Complex. "Nobody else in New England has three lighted fields like this in one location."

The state tournaments will be on consecutive weekends, including the women's Class C July 8-10, the men's Class B July 15-17 and the men's Class A July 22-24. The Complex will then host the men's New England Regional Class C Tournament Aug. 12-14.

In league play, James Jewelers will head up the seven-team Miller Division, which plays a 24-game schedule. The 12 teams in the Lite Division play 25 games each, and the 13 in the Lowenbrau Division play 24 each.

New teams

New teams in the Lite Division include Scenic Screen, Garbo's Gang and East Side Cafe. New teams in the Lowenbrau Division are Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor, Century 21 Perras Realty, Decker Auto Body, East Street Video, Keith Clark, Rumours, B & G Restaurant Equipment Co., O'Connell Oil and Barron Realty Inc.

Tonight's games include Bonanza vs. Buratto Construction and Garbo's Gang vs. Auto Parts of Pittsfield at 6:45, James Jewelers vs. Either/Or Bookstore and BMC Bombers vs. Randall's Trophy Shop at 8 and John's Garage vs. Pinball High at 9:15.

In addition to the Berkshire County League, the 12-team General Electric League and 11-team women's slow pitch league also uses the facility during the summer. With the three Pittsfield high school teams and Berkshire Community College also using the Complex, that makes 59 teams that are tenants of the seven-year-old facility.

Since the Complex was opened, Bridges said, some $425,000 has been invested in the facility, including a clubhouse and two garages, lighting, seeding and grading for three fields plus a soccer field, dugouts, electronic scoreboards and a parking lot.

This year, Field 3 has been regraded to account for settling over the old city landfill. Field 2 will be regraded in September and Field 1 in September of 1989, Bridges said.

Also this year, a 24-by-28 addition has been built onto the first floor of the clubhouse, freeing up room in the bar area and offering a glassed-in view of the action on Field 1. When the project is completed, there will be tables with seating for about 60, Bridges said.

Seeking extended lease

Although the Berkshire County Softball Complex Inc. still has 14 years left on its lease of the property from the city, Bridges said he will seek a 40-year lease this fall "to protect the investment we've put into it."

Another project Bridges proposes is a 120-by-50-foot building between Fields 1 and 2 that would be used for batting cages and a children's recreation facility. Bridges proposes that the building could open in March for batting practice, and would be used during the season for both batting practice and child care, with swing sets and other items for mothers and children to use while fathers play softball (or, for that matter, for fathers and children while mothers play softball).

The facility would cost about $75,000 to $80,000, Bridges said, and he proposes to finance it through private investments of $10,000 to $15,000 apiece. With players paying $1 for 18 pitches in the batting cage, "four batting cages will pay off the original investment in four years," Bridges predicted.

Bianchi tournament

In softball action yesterday, the final rounds of the Al Bianchi Memorial tournament at the Complex were postponed because of rain and have been rescheduled for Saturday.

Play will resume Saturday at 2, with the finals scheduled for 6.

5/23/88

105.

Eastern League

Villanueva saves Cubs in 10th, 3-2

By Bill Everhart
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — An apparent easy win turned into high drama last night, as the Pittsfield Cubs squandered a 2-0 ninth-inning lead before nipping the Albany Yankees 3-2 in 10 innings at Wahconah Park.

It was appropriate that crowd favorite Hector Villanueva got the game-winner, a two-out single that chased in Mike Tullier from second base with the deciding run. Villanueva's heroics were set up by an agonizing ninth inning in which Cub starter Kris Roth went to the bench with a 2-0 lead and watched it disappear as Albany tied the game with a couple of singles, a couple of walks and an error.

Reading arrives in town for a five-game series beginning with a double-header this afternoon at 5. Rich Scheid (5-1) and Jackie Davidson (2-3) will work for Pittsfield.

The Cubs scratched for all three of their runs last night, and none was scratchier than the game-winner.

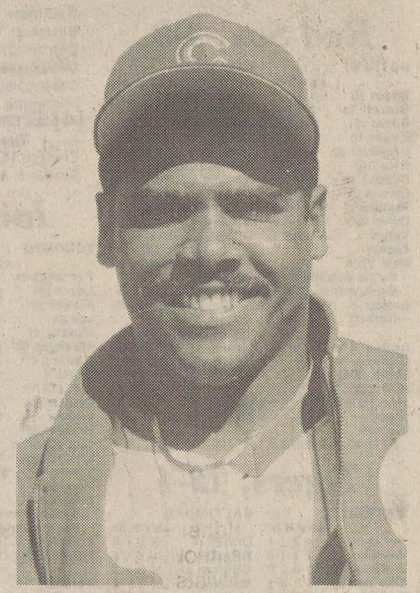
Tullier welcomed southpaw reliever Matt Harrison (1-3) with a well-placed bunt single down the right side. An out later, Ced Landrum dropped down a sacrifice bunt on a 3-2 pitch, sending Tullier to second. After Rich Amaral walked, Yankee manager Stump Merrill brought in right-hander Darren Chapin, just up from Class A Fort Lauderdale, to pitch to Villanueva.

Crowd is behind Hector

Villanueva looked bad on a swinging strike that evened the count at 2-2, but with the hardcore residue of the crowd of 517 chanting "Hector, Hector!" he lashed the next pitch into left for a single. Tullier scored easily and the Cubs salvaged the final game of the three-game series.

"He really messed me up with a low forkball," said Villanueva of the pitch for strike two. "But he got the next one up a little and I got it."

Villanueva acknowledged that the chants from the fans got him pumped up in his last at bat.



Mike Harkey
Pitcher of the Month

"They've been behind me the last few days but I haven't been producing," said the popular first baseman. "It's nice to come through in the clutch."

"As Hector goes we go," said Cub manager Jim Essian, who later qualified that statement to point out the contributions of some of the lesser lights in the Cub lineup. "He had never seen that kid [Chapin] in his life, but he got a tough pitch and drove it off him."

Hector's heroics erased the memory of a gruesome ninth. After Roth, who had given Albany fits with his slider all evening, got Jim Leyritz on a grounder to start the inning, Essian brought in southpaw Steve Parker to face Kevin Maas, who had two hits already. Maas banged a broken-bat single up the middle and switch-hitter Tony Russell, batting from the right side, singled into left.

Essian countered with right-hander Dean Wilkins, who leads the

Harkey, Wilkins get E.L. honors
Continued on Page D2

6/9/88

Harkey, Wilkins get E.L. honors

Continued from Page D1

league in saves. Dick Scott bounced a grounder up the middle and shortstop Jim Bullinger ranged far to his left to glove it and toss to second baseman Amaral for the force on Russell. Wilkins, however, walked Bob Green and Jason Maas to force in Kevin Maas with the first Albany run.

With the bases loaded and two out, Essian brought in Mark Leonette. Andy Stankiewicz hit a sharp grounder to Amaral, who had the ball bounce off his chest. He awkwardly backhanded a toss past Bullinger covering at second as the tying run scored, but third baseman Ray Thoma prevented further damage by grabbing the loose ball and gunning down Green at the plate.

Essian said he was playing the percentages when he removed Roth in the ninth.

"If Kevin Maas gets a hit I have to bring in Parker because I don't want Russell batting from the left side," said Essian. "So why not bring him in to face Maas rather than give the SOB another chance for a hit off Roth. If they got on, I had Wilkins to back up. I wanted to give Parker and Wilkins a challenge, and even though it didn't work out, Hector picked us up."

"That's not my decision," said Roth of Essian's move. "I have to support him. If we get out of the inning it looks good."

The Cubs didn't do much with Albany ace Dave Eiland. They scored in the second on Bullinger's well-executed squeeze bunt and in the third on singles by Amaral and John Lewis and a fielder's choice grounder by Joe Girardi.

Roth gave up five hits in 8⅓ innings of work.

* * * *

CUB NOTES: Cub right-hander Mike Harkey was selected as the Eastern League Player of the Month for May by vote of the league's managers.

Harkey leads the league in wins (8-2) and ERA (1.25) and is fourth in the league in strikeouts (47). He was 3-2 in May, but gave up only one earned run in his two losses.

The Cubs' first pick in last June's amateur draft, Harkey has missed a start because of a strained hamstring but the Cubs hope he'll start tomorrow or Saturday against Reading.

Pittsfield reliever Dean Wilkins was chosen Pitcher of the Week for the week of May 30 through June 5. The right-hander saved all four of the Cubs' victories in Vermont to raise his league-leading save total to 14. He is 0-2 with a 2.03 ERA.

6/9/88

106.

Council votes down 'final' baseball proposal

'Looks like the end,' Revo says after 6-2 vote against lease proposal

By Daniel Bellow
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Professional baseball's four-year run in Pittsfield reached what seemed its final out in the City Council chamber last night.

The Council voted 6-2 to reject City Solicitor Michael J. McCarthy's last, best offer for the lease of Wahconah Park to minor-league franchise owner Stuart Revo. Instead, it directed McCarthy to offer Revo a proposal he had already turned down.

Revo last night indicated he would pull his Eastern League team out of Pittsfield, saying, "It's clear that the Pittsfield City Council doesn't want us; we'll just have to go where we are wanted."

"Looks like the end of the latest chapter in Pittsfield baseball history," he said when he got the news.

Revo has been negotiating with two other cities who want his franchise — Williamsport, Pa., and Burlington, Vt. — but he did not say last night where the team might go. League officials have said they want a decision from him on this score by Dec. 16. His team was an affiliate of the Chicago Cubs for the past four years but next season will be a Class AA farm club of the Seattle Mariners.

The Council rejected a proposal for a three-year lease of the park at $5,000 a year, with other benefits to the city, and instead ordered McCarthy to offer Revo a one-year lease on the same terms with the provision that he renounce his territorial rights to Pittsfield at the end of the year.

Revo, who already has refused such a proposal, said last night, "I think my position on that is well-known."

The most strident advocate of the movement to

Council votes down lease
Continued on Page D5

12/8/88

Council votes down lease

Continued from Page D1

reject the contract was Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, who reiterated his objections to having an out-of-town businessman in control of the public park. Other councilors joined Arlos in opposing a provision in the contract that Revo could replace the Double-A team with a Class A club. This proved the main issue prompting the Council to vote down the lease proposal.

Revo has been "conducting guerrilla warfare against the City Council, always threatening to leave," Arlos said. He spoke of Williamsport Mayor Jessie Bloom's difficulties with Revo, saying it was a "deva-zhew" of Pittsfield's experience.

"I think they should lease the park to Mr. Arlos," Revo said later. "He said he was willing to pay $5,000, he can do whatever he wants with it."

Less flamboyant than Arlos but more persuasive was Council President Angelo C. Stracuzzi's criticism of Revo as insincere and duplicitous. "I wonder where Mr. Revo is coming from in terms of this community," Stracuzzi said. Other councilors followed with criticism of Revo.

Only Ward 6 Councilor Wilbert N. Stockton Sr. and Ward 4 Councilor Bernard J. Goclowski spoke in favor of the lease, saying that Revo and Class A baseball weren't so bad and that professional baseball clubs are hard for cities to come by.

McCarthy added that the owner had negotiated in good faith throughout and had not kept his dealings with other cities secret.

McCarthy told Stockton that Revo had agreed to 85 percent of the demands put forth by Arlos in an earlier petition passed by the Council, and Stockton said that was a good deal.

A majority of the members of the city Parks Commission also spoke in favor of accepting the deal.

McCarthy stalked out of the chamber after the vote, slamming the door of his office behind him. "I'll offer it to him again," he said, visibly agitated. "That's all I can do. I will convey the City Council's action to Mr. Revo as the city's best and final offer. I can't predict what he'll do, but he said he would never repudiate the territorial rights."

"The City Council was elected to make decisions like this, and they have spoken, I am their servant," McCarthy concluded.

"There are a lot of good people in Pittsfield," Revo said, "and I thank them for their support, but there are some people that could care less about baseball in Pittsfield, and they got their way.... Good for them, that's democracy."

With three members absent, the vote was 6-2 against the lease, with Goclowski and Stockton supporting it, and Stracuzzi, Arlos, John P. Anderson Jr. of Ward 5, Caroline Bresnahan of Ward 1, Eric S. Biss of Ward 3 and Councilor at-large Imelda C. LaMountain voting against. The one-year lease counterproposal passed unanimously.

12/8/88

107.

Two cities poised to get Pittsfield baseball team

Williamsport, Burlington make pitch as Pittsfield all but bows out

By Ray Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — As two other cities poised for Stuart Revo's final decision, Pittsfield last night essentially accepted the loss of its Eastern League baseball team.

The Pittsfield City Council voted unanimously — and without debate — to accept a communication from City Solicitor Michael McCarthy saying that Revo, who operated the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park for the past four seasons, has rejected the city's final offer for a lease on the park for 1989. The communication followed a letter McCarthy had received from Revo on Monday.

"As it stands now," McCarthy's communication read in part, "there will be no professional baseball in Pittsfield in 1989."

McCarthy said that the communication does not completely slam the door on Pittsfield's hopes for a team in 1989.

"Stuart has left the door open to the extent that, if the Council reconsidered at any point, to let him know," the solicitor commented. "But as it stands now, our negotiations are done. He has rejected the city's best and final offer."

* * * *

Pittsfield's final offer stood as one the Council had approved Nov. 22. That lease, born out of a petition from City Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, included a provision wherebyRevo would have to surrender territorial rights to the park at the end of the 1989 season. Revo had said previously he would not accept that provision, so he rejected the lease that included it.

The New York businessman had agreed on another lease proposal in one-to-one negotiations with McCarthy on Dec. 1. But that proposed lease, which was for three years but guaranteed Class AA baseball for only one year, was voted down 6-2 by the Council in

Two cities make pitch
Continued on Page D3

12/14/88

Two cities make pitch for Pittsfield team

Continued from Page D1

a special meeting last Wednesday. Though the Council does not have veto power over the lease, which is technically held by the Parks Commission, McCarthy had said he would not submit a lease that the Council had rejected.

* * * *

While Pittsfield has appeared to bow out of the running, Williamsport, Pa., and Burlington, Vt., are preparing to take their final moves in their bids to attract Revo's franchise, which will be affiliated with the Seattle Mariners next season.

The Eastern League has given Revo a deadline of Friday to decide on a 1989 site for his team. "And I understand that to be a very hard-and-fast deadline," the club owner said from his New York home last night. "We have to decide by Friday, and we will."

In Williamsport, which lost its Eastern League team to Hargerstown, Md., last month, the City Council will meet tomorrow night to vote on a two-year lease. Revo, meanwhile, is scheduled to meet with a number of officials in Burlington today. The Vermont city lost its former franchise to Canton, Ohio.

"I'm going up there with an open mind," Revo said of his visit to Burlington. "I want to hear what people there have to say, and what they have to offer."

Revo acknowledged, however, that Williamsport "is a little bit more advanced" in the negotiating process, and said the terms of the lease the Council will vote on tomorrow "are agreeable to me."

Revo said that "both cities have their plusses," in their bids to acquire his franchise. Yet both pose some potential problems as well.

The lease that the Williamsport Council will vote on tomorrow is a two-year deal that includes a provision for beer sales at Bowman Field, where no alcoholic beverages were sold at Williamsport Bills' games in the past. Largely because of that provision, sources said yesterday, the Williamsport Recreation Commission — a body similar to Pittsfield's Parks Commission — voted down the lease proposal by a 3-2 margin Monday night.

"I don't think that's a major setback," Revo said. "They're just an advisory board, and to tell you the truth, that was a vote we expected." A similar Council vote tomorrow, however, could tie up the negotiations.

In Burlington, Revo will meet with city officials, representatives of the Burlington business community, officials at the University of Vermont, which owns Centennial Field, and representatives of the state of Vermont, which reportedly may help finance a $1 million renovation project on the field. Those million-dollar improvements, however, would come in the second year of a renovation plan, sources said, and Revo said he is seeking a one-year lease.

"We're hoping to get a long-term commitment," said Ray Pecor, a Burlington businessman who operates a ferry boat service on Lake Champlain. Pecor earlier tried to purchase the Williamsport franchise and move it to Burlington, but talks broke off with former Williamsport club owner John McGee.

"We really want minor-league baseball here; we think it's great for the community," Pecor said. "But we just don't know yet where we stand. By this time [tonight], we should know a whole lot more."

12/14/88

Revo picks Williamsport, Pa.

Continued from Page A1

moved to Hagerstown, Md.

The move of the franchise after four years in Pittsfield ends the latest chapter in a relationship between the city and the league that dates back to 1965.

Revo has agreed to pay $7,500 in rent annually for two years, or 10 cents for every fan after the team draws 75,000 — whichever is greater. The club will be allowed to sell beer, something the previous owners weren't permitted to do. Williamsport will provide a batting cage, tarpaulin and concession equipment, all of which the previous owners didn't get. Revo also received a buyout provision that allows him to pay Williamsport $7,500 if he doesn't want to be there in 1990.

"All along, [Revo] kept telling me he was looking favorably to Williamsport," Bloom said. "Once the City Council approved the lease Tuesday night, I felt that would be the deciding incentive."

Revo is moving his franchise to a community that supported baseball by drawing more than 100,000 fans for the Williamsport Bills, a Cleveland Indians farm team since 1987. In 1989, the franchise will be affiliated with the Seattle Mariners.

Bad news for Burlington

It may be a happy holiday for Williamsport, but the feeling in Burlington is akin to finding a lump of coal in the Christmas stocking.

"I'm disappointed. In two weeks, we put together what we thought was a good package," said Burlington businessman Tom Racine, who was part of a public and private coalition trying to entice Revo to Vermont. "Our mayor [Bernard Sanders] and the state government put a lot of work into this. We came up with what the Revos [brothers Stuart and Larry] wanted done. I guess we got outbid."

Burlington and the state of Vermont had promised to spend about $1 million in renovations to the University of Vermont's Centennial Field if Revo moved his team there. Racine said he thought the two sides were close after Revo spent Wednesday in the city. That changed on Thursday when Revo put another condition on the table.

"We gave them everything they asked for until [Thursday] when they asked for guaranteed ticket sales. It was never brought up before," said a perturbed Racine. "Stuart was here Wednesday and it wasn't brought up then. It was brought up by phone Thursday.

"We would help them sell tickets, but couldn't guarantee any ticket sales," he added. There are no guarantees for ticket sales in Williamsport and none were asked for.

In five years, the best the Cubs could draw to Wahconah Park was 60,585 in their first year. They drew 47,709 in 1986 and a national Class AA-low attendance figure of 51,551 in 1987 despite finishing first with the best regular-season record in Pittsfield history. Last season, attendance jumped by about 7,000, and general manager E.J. Narcise said he thought things were on the way back.

But Revo ran afoul of the Pittsfield City Council during negotiations for a new lease. City Solicitor Michael McCarthy and Revo had come to an agreement on a three-year contract for $5,000 per year. The Council, led by Councilor at large Peter G. Arlos, wanted to offer Revo a one-year deal that also called for Revo to surrender his territorial rights after the 1989 season — something he would not do.

The Council rejected the negotiated lease, submitting the one-year proposal that Revo rejected last week. That opened the way for the franchise move to Williamsport.

Williamsport wins Pittsfield's AA franchise

By Howard Herman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — And the winner is — Williamsport, Pa.

Stuart Revo decided late yesterday to accept a two-year lease from Williamsport and move his Eastern League AA franchise from Pittsfield immediately. Revo had a league-imposed deadline of yesterday to decide if his team would move to Williamsport or Burlington, Vt.

"We've agreed to accept the lease," Revo said, adding that he hadn't signed it yet. "They gave us everything we asked for."

"Both cities deserve baseball clubs," Revo added. "The Eastern League had a strong preference for Williamsport and it's just a great baseball town."

Williamsport Mayor Jessie Bloom received a phone call from Revo at 6 p.m. yesterday.

"It's an early Christmas present for Williamsport," she told The Eagle. "We've proven to the Eastern League that we want and can support a team. We're looking forward to a long working relationship with Mr. Revo."

The decision means Williamsport will have an Eastern League team to replace a franchise that earlier this year was sold and

Revo picks Williamsport
Continued from Page B4

12/17/88

* * * *

COED BASKETBALL: Registration for the Pittsfield Recreation Department's coed basketball league will take place Monday through Friday next week from 9 to 5 at the Springside House, 874 North St, Pittsfield. Games will be played on Wednesday nights, beginning Sept. 28, at 7 and 8 at Mornignside school.

Each team must have two men and two women on the court at all times. There is an officials' fee of $15.00 per player. More information may be obtained by calling the recreation department on upper North Street.

9-8-88

William H. Tague

FIREFIGHTERS battling a North Street blaze in 1952. This is one of photos unearthed at City Hall. 5/7/88

Pittsfield in '52 — photos found in City Hall

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A file drawer in the basement of City Hall has yielded a time capsule of life in Pittsfield in 1952, innocent and simple, at least on the surface.

Daniel Bianchi, director of administration and finance for the city, said that several weeks ago, in a quest for more storage space, he was exploring a bay of rooms used mostly for dumping odds and ends.

He and Robert Tone, city purchasing agent, had found a pile of outdated equipment and were discussing how best to get rid of it when they spotted a filing cabinet in one corner. In the top drawer they found a dozen large envelopes filled with curled photographs. Notes on the envelopes indicated they were taken for the 1952 City Report.

Recognizing the exceptional quality of many of them, as well as the historical interest of the subjects, Bianchi called in Daniel O'Connell of Berkshire Artisans who agreed to have the best of them gallery mounted and hung in the entrance hall of City Hall.

Over the past week they have been drawing the attention of nearly everyone who passes. But the subjects, for the most part, remained unidentified, as did the photographer.

Eagle photographer

However a closer look at the photos showed that they were taken by William H. Tague, now night city editor of The Berkshire Eagle.

Tague, who in 1952 was a young reporter-photographer for The Eagle, said that some of the photos were taken expressly for the report but that others were done for his Eagle Eye, a photographic page that still runs on Saturdays.

As befits illustrations for a report, the photos show the city departments at work. Included is a view of a pristine Springside Park and another of the beach at Pontoosuc Lake, with the cruise boat, The Sheila, on the water. Another shot shows sunbathers at the Blue Anchor Beach across the channel from the beach.

A jammed City Council room at what was then City Hall and that is now a branch office of the Berkshire County Savings Bank, includes a number of once and future political lights. A view from the old mayor's office includes a windblown flag and the park beyond. Still another shot of Park Square reminds the viewer of what a magnificent collection of elms once stood there.

New two-way radio

A policeman demonstrates the use of a brand new two-way radio, then the latest in police communications.

At the Common, a group of girls is lined up for the start of a speed-skating race and at one of the city's park's, a long-jumper is caught in midair.

In an era before machines did everything, street sweepers clean a section of the city's ways under the supervision of the beaming foreman.

O'Connell said the photographs will come down now to make room for another show, but that they will continue to be displayed at various places throughout the city. One of the main uses, he suspects, will be as a series of collections kept at each department as a reminder of the way things used to be done.

Joel Librizzi

Tubby tubes

4/12/88

These great culverts behind Clapp Park drain the flood-prone west side of Pittsfield and provide fascinating viewing for Aaron and Brad Stewart.

JCM

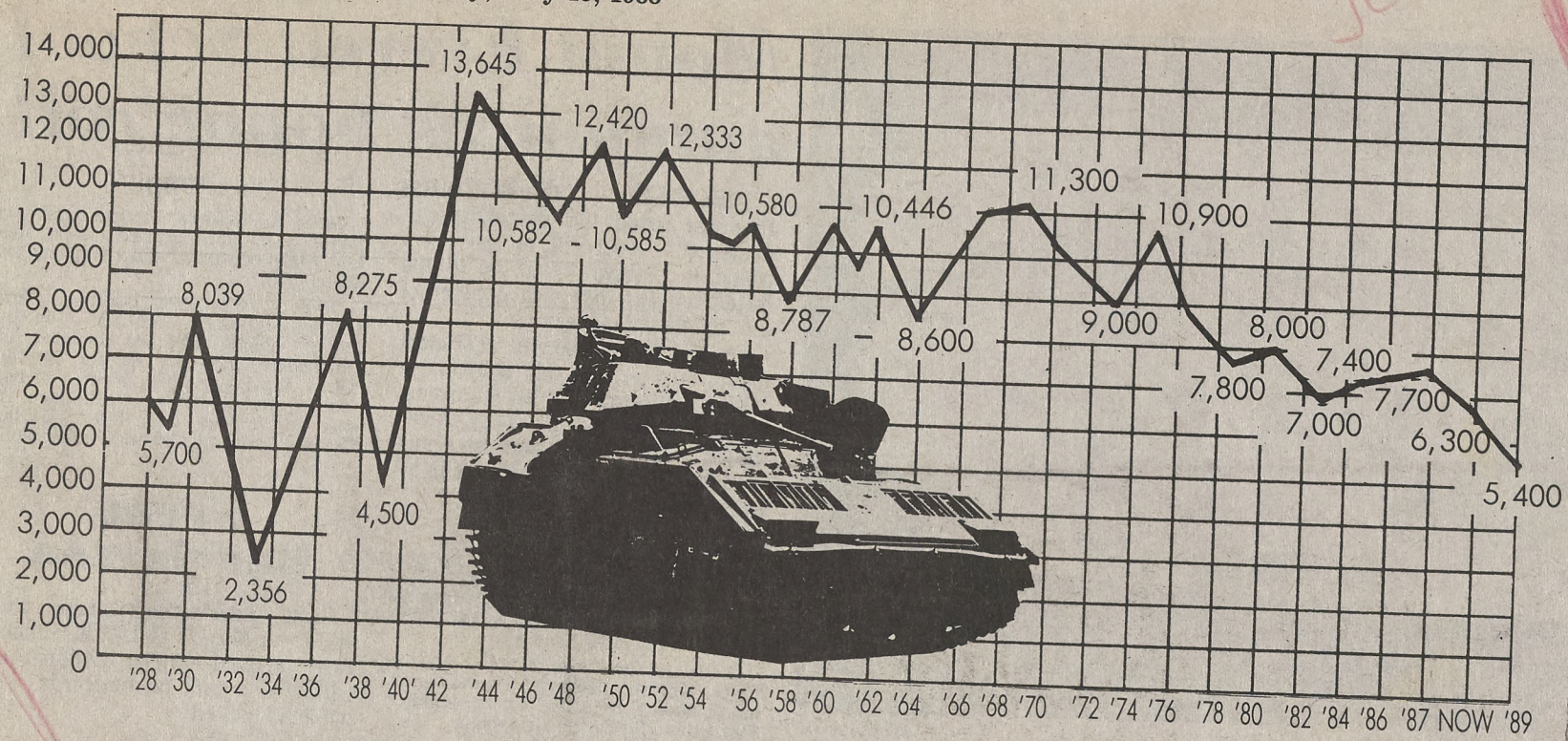
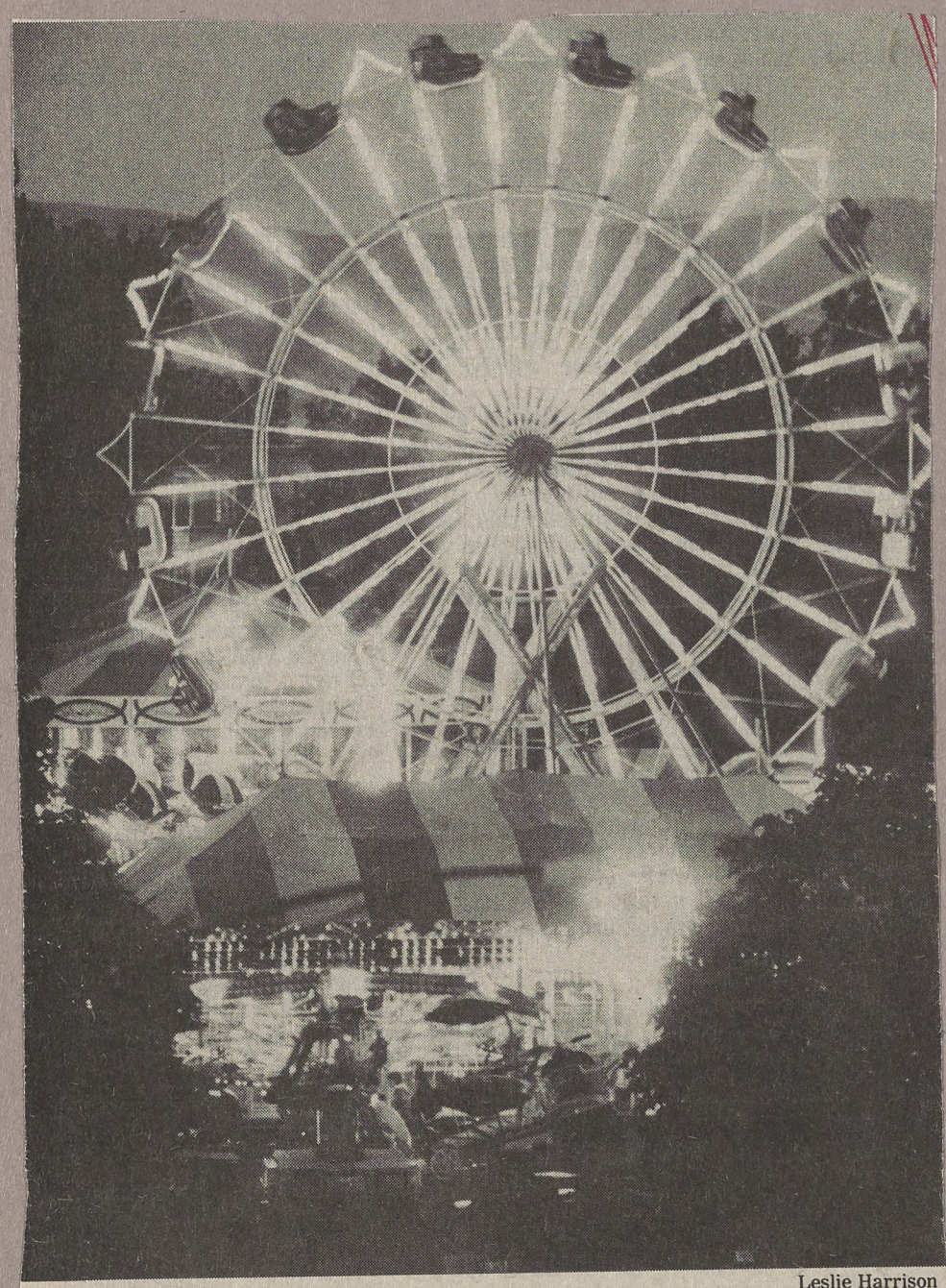


CHART shows employment level at GE plant in Pittsfield since 1928.



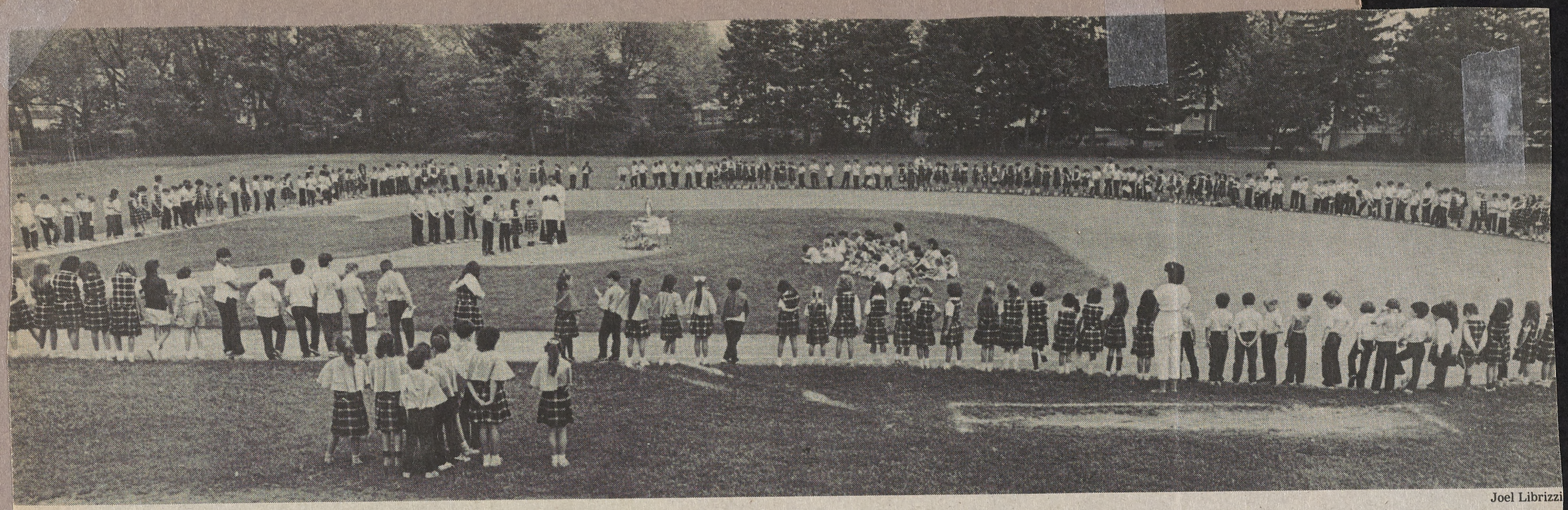
Leslie Harrison

Wheel of light

Gillette's Carnival, making its annual appearance in Pittsfield, illuminates the First Street Common. The carnival will continue tonight from 6 to 11 and tomorrow and Sunday from 1 to 11 p.m.

6/3/88

112.



Joel Librizzi

Living rosary

6/2/88

At Deming Park, 451 pupils of Sacred Heart School formed a living rosary Tuesday under the direction of the Rev. Gary Dailey from the pitcher's mound. The project was in keeping with the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin, a traditional rite of spring in the Catholic Church, usually held May 31. The group prayed for peace.

6/6/88

Name in the News

The power behind the flower

Patti Barrett

PAT PIETROWSKY: 'Our enthusiasm caught on.''

PITTSFIELD

In about five weeks, when riotous displays of color appear in parks around the city, you might want to thank Pat Pietrowsky.

As president of the Springside Greenhouse Group, Pietrowsky helped organize the club members who planted more than 9,000 tulips in six different areas including a large display at Park Square and another at the entrance to Springside Park.

The bright display will be a fitting tribute to this active 50-year-old who seems the sort to nurture plants — and people.

"I always thought our club should do more for the community. The city is so generous in letting us use this space that I feel it's important for us to give back in kind," said Pietrowsky.

The next event of the club will be a plant sale held around Mother's Day at the greenhouse, when the tulips should be in full bloom.

* * *

A Dalton native, the affable gardener now lives on Bushey Street with her husband Joseph, an engineer at General Electric Ordnance, and their 24-year-old son, Michael. A grown daughter, Jenifer Campbell, lives nearby. Pietrowsky worked at various jobs until her children were born. She's always kept busy, working as a volunteer for the Girl Scouts and other organizations, before joining the Springside Greenhouse Group about 12 years ago.

"The club was kind of going down the tubes," said Pietrowsky. "A group of us joined and wanted to keep it alive. We enjoyed it all so much that we got our heads together and decided to make it work. I guess word spread that we were doing things differently and our enthusiasm caught on."

It caught on so much that before long the club reached a membership high of 65, the count today. Pietrowsky has been president for the past three years but she doesn't like to take credit for the club's success. Instead, she praises the members who do all the work: the watering, the potting, the spraying, the cleaning and the planting.

She organizes the weekly meetings — the club meets every Wednesday from September through late May — getting speakers or videos or urging a fellow club member who may be an expert in orchids or herbs to share his or her knowledge with the group. She also runs annual plant sales as fund raising events to help pay the club's expenses.

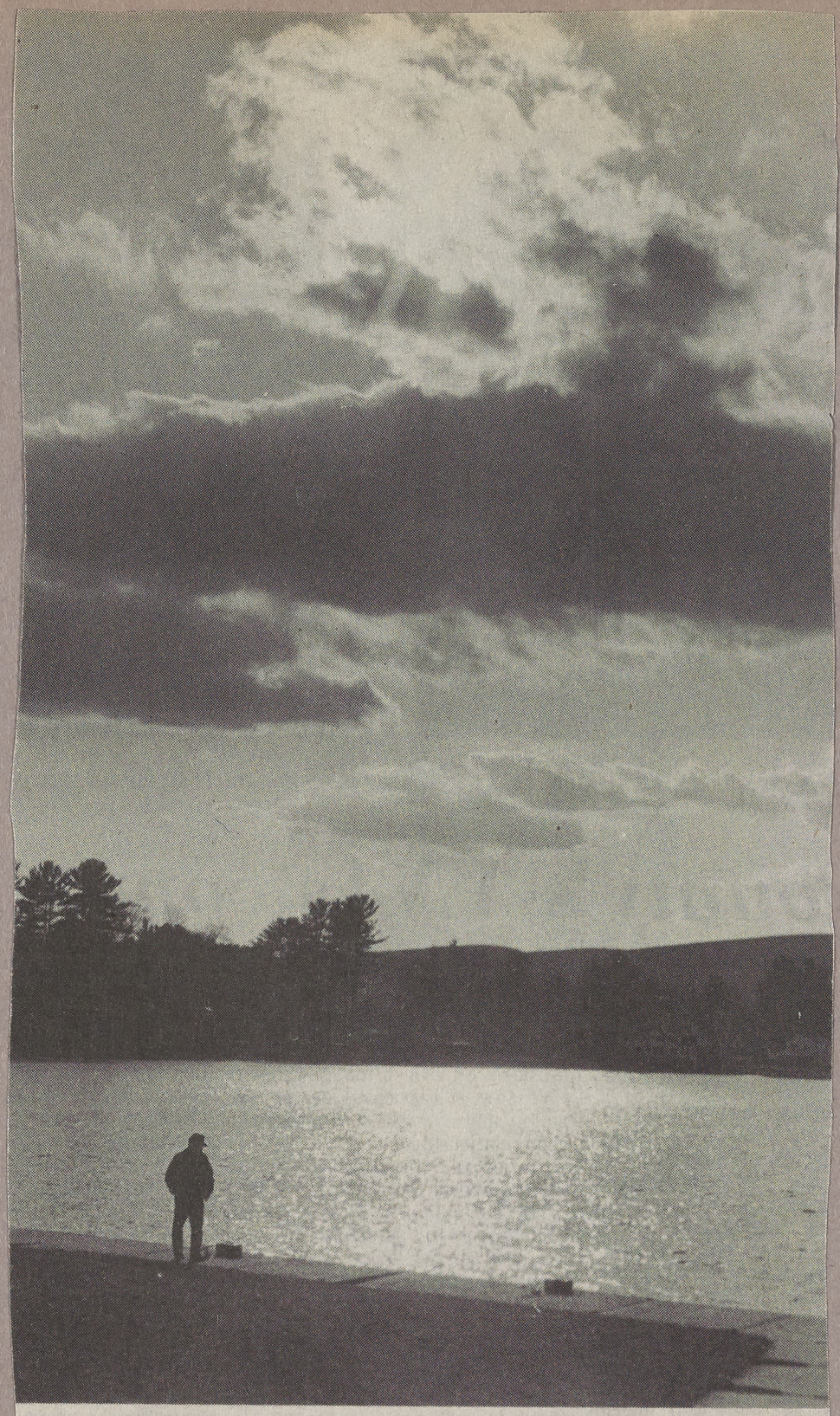
Expenses include an average of $3,000 for oil to heat the greenhouse, money for potting soil and supplies and, last year, $2,000 for the bulbs. Members pay $80 a year in dues. This helps cover expenses and it gives the members the privilege of having a 2-by-3-foot greenhouse "plot" where they can grow their favorite plants. In return, the members volunteer their time by signing up to water plants and do such greenhouse chores as mixing soil, starting seedlings and transplanting overgrown plants.

Pietrowsky likes to fuss over the members as much as she does the plants. She's the kind of person whose green thumb is as effective in getting people to do things as it is in getting plants to grow. She praises one loyal 82-year-old retiree who is there every day and another who does all the carpentry work that's so often needed. One elderly widower who comes to the weekly meetings gets his collar straightened and jacket brushed by the president.

"For some this is their life," she said. "They're retired and active. So they can garden here all winter and at home during the summer."

Gardening comes easily to Pietrowsky, who remembers planting tomatoes with her grandfather when growing up in Dalton. Now she enjoys raising orchids but her plot at the greenhouse is rather empty compared to the others. She's so busy organizing the club and its members there's little time left for the plants.

4/18/88



Leslie Harrison

Loner

4/18/88

George Parsons of North Adams was alone with his thoughts and his tackle box as he fished Lake Pontoosuc last night.

Joel Librizzi

GETTING READY for the open house are William J. Loucks and Pat Pietrowsky, Greenhouse Group president.

Open house set Sunday at Springside Greenhouse

PITTSFIELD — The Springside Greenhouse Group's annual open house will be Sunday from 10 to 4 in the greenhouse behind the Department of Parks and Recreation headquarters at 874 North St.

Featured at this year's open house is a Victorian garden-patio setting accented by a large cascading fountain. Chester L. Gabriel designed the setting and provided the decorative items to complete the springtime scene. Orin McCarthy will display his collection of bonsai; Elvira Terranova will be on hand with her herbal display; Larry Daoust will show his Japanese garden and waterfall display; and Pat LaPointe will demonstrate a miniature greenhouse landscape.

Club members will be available to discuss the plants they have grown over the winter months, most of which were started from seed. Many types of plants will be available for sale in the club room.

President Pat Pietrowsky is coordinator of this year's event. Chairmen are William J. Loucks and Harvey Sides, set construction; Orin McCarthy, plant sales; Vivian Schilling, house chairman; Mary and Paul Nash, refreshments; and Ed Came, William Flynn and Rico Spagnuolo, technical advisers.

3/25/88

Greenhouse group begins 21st season

PITTSFIELD — The Springside Greenhouse Group will begin its 21st season with a meeting Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at Springside House.

Besides the short business meeting, there will be an introduction and orientation of new members. Refreshments will be served.

Mrs. Patricia Pietrowsky was reinstalled president at the group's May 18 banquet at the Cork n' Hearth in Lee. Other officers installed were Mrs. Elvira Terranova, vice president; Mrs. Patricia Carey, secretary; Mrs. Judy MacCartney, treasurer; Raymond Morgan, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Louise Cianflone, community relations; Mrs. Liz Zawistowski, membership, and Mrs. Vivian Schilling and Raymond Langlais, nominating.

Also, Orin McCarty and Donald Davis, plant sale; Mrs. Ruth Austin and Ms. Patricia LaPoint, programs; Mrs. Mary Harrison, publicity; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nash, refreshments; Harvey Sides, spraying; and Mrs. Val Myers, watering.

On Sept. 28, Mrs. Pietrowsky will lecture on cuttings and propagation. The Oct. 5 lecture will be on bugs and pests.

On Oct. 12, Mr. McCarty will lecture on potting and the topic for the Oct. 19 lecture will be spraying and watering.

All lectures are at 7 at the Springside Greenhouse, with the exception of the Sept. 28 lecture. That site will be announced at a later date as will other lecture dates and speakers. The public is invited.

9-14-88

6,000 tulips provide setting for plant sale

PITTSFIELD — A display of 6,000 tulips in full bloom plus gardeners dressed in Dutch outfits will greet visitors to the Springside Greenhouse Group's annual plant sale Sunday from 10 to 4.

The sale will take place in the greenhouse behind the Department of Parks and Recreation building at 874 North St.

Greenhouse-grown fuchsias, geraniums, impatiens and a variety of indoor-outdoor plants will be for sale.

William Loucks, of the greenhouse group said members decided to dress in handmade Dutch costumes to provide an atmosphere of "old-world tradition" to the event. They will be available for photos.

The tulips were planted last year in the formal gardens by members of the group.

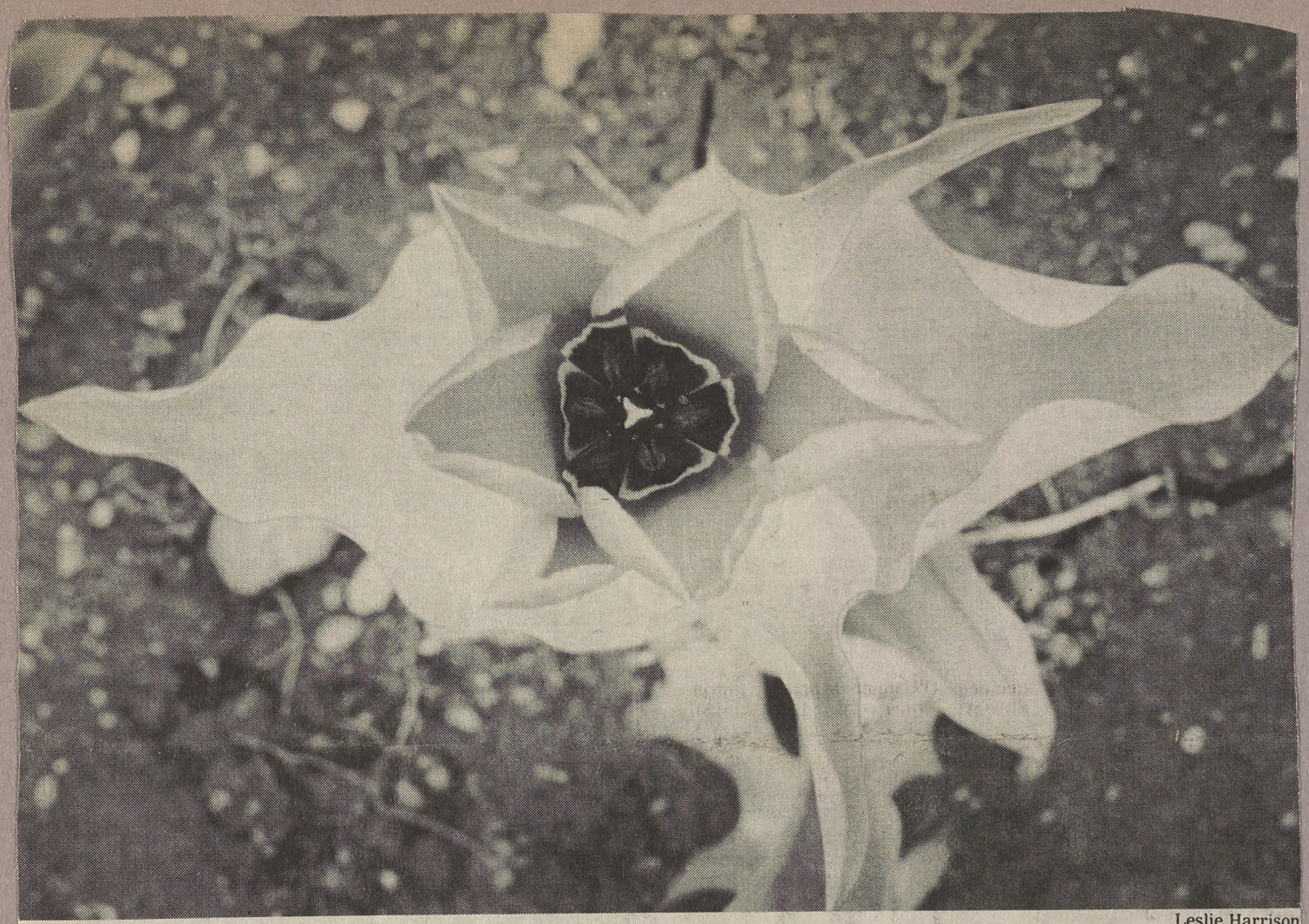
Visitors' parking will be in the main lot next to the Department of Parks and Recreation building.

5/11/88

Awaiting Inspection

5/14/88

Like troops standing at attention for inspection, tulips by the thousand await admirers at Springside House, 874 North St. Members of the Springside Greenhouse Group, which planted the tulips, will wander among them in Dutch costume tomorrow from 10 to 4 as part of the club's annual plant sale.



Leslie Harrison

Spring design

4/26/88

Most people would never guess the identity of this spring flower, which makes an abstract composition when viewed from directly overhead. It is a single tulip, an early bloomer among the thousands that in the coming weeks will stage an extravaganza of color at Springside House in Pittsfield.

Leslie Harrison

Full of beans

Reggie Turner jams together two halves of a plastic egg she has just filled with jelly beans. She was one of a roomful of volunteers who filled 10,000 Easter eggs with 720 pounds of beans Tuesday night at the Stanley Club in preparation for the city Recreation Department's annual Easter egg hunt. It will be April 2 at 3 p.m. behind Reid Middle School. 3/24/88

Some 100 volunteers from the Exchange Club, Price Chopper and the Department of Recreation joined Tuesday night in filling plastic eggs with jelly beans for the annual city Easter egg hunt. Incomplete information was given in a photo caption in Thursday's Eagle. 3/26/88

Five-story balloons to loom over parade

PITTSFIELD — The music of 22 marching units, six more than last year, and two 50-foot-high, helium-filled balloons like those in Macy's Thanksgiving parade will soar above this summer's Fourth of July Parade.

For the first time, cash awards rather than trophies will be awarded to four winning parade floats, the parade committee announced yesterday.

"Just Havin' Fun" has been chosen by the committee as the parade's theme.

The 22 marching units will be from seven states and Canada and will include the reigning Drum Corps International Class A World Champions, the Drum Corps Associates Senior Drum Corps World Champions and a top high school band from the Midwest, the committee said.

Giant helium balloons from Kemp Balloons Inc. of Baltimore will make their debut this year. Kemp Balloons is the major supplier to the Macy's parade. Making their way down the parade route will be five-story-high Heathcliff, 50-foot Tipsey the Pink Elephant and a 28-foot owl.

Parade committee president Bruce Desoe said that each year the committee tries to add new and different units to the parade and to improve its quality.

A "Parade Preview Spectacular" is scheduled for the evening of July 3 at Wahconah Park. It will feature musical units from the parade, as well as some local talent.

Berkshire Medical Center will sponsor for the third year the Independence Run road race before the parade. The 5-kilometer run is expected to draw over 400 runners.

Last year's Picnic on the Common will be repeated. Pittsfield Civitan will be co-sponsoring this event. Craft exhibitors and food booths will be set up on the First Street Common. Selected musical and specialty units from the parade will perform throughout the afternoon. A fireworks display will conclude the event.

Gaining publicity

The parade committee has expanded its public relations committee to handle marketing as well. The latter committee has produced two brochures to promote the parade and attract tourists.

The Pittsfield Fourth of July Parade is now listed in vacation guides, in major newspapers and the pullout vacation section of the Boston Globe, the committee said.

Anyone wishing to participate in the parade, have a booth at the picnic, run in the road race, volunteer services or obtain further information should contact the parade committee office at 237 Tyler St. The cutoff date for parade entrants is June 1. 4/12/88

Recycling the lake weeds

Since mechanical harvesting of lake weeds seems to be the most environmentally benign way of getting rid of this nuisance, the clean bill of health that weeds have been given as a composted fertilizer comes as welcome news. In Pittsfield, weeds pulled from Pontoosuc Lake have been spread in the fields of local farmer Silvio V. Rotti on Fort Hill Avenue. If the material from this lake and others around the county could *not* be composted and used as fertilizer, it would present a major disposal problem at a time when landfill space is scarce just about everywhere.

2/5/88

Peace vigil

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

People concerned with peace in Central America are invited to participate in a vigil Monday from 4 to 5 p.m. in Park Square, to coincide with President Reagan's State of the Union speech.

SARAH HUDSON

Tyringham

1/22/88

Leslie Harrison

Snowy vigil

It was a wintry protest yesterday for members of the Berkshire Committee on Central America, who braved the storm to denounce President Reagan's efforts to resume aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

1/26/88

Joel Librizzi

Heels over head

3/1/88

Lonnie Lopez, 4, comes down a slide head first at Pitt Playground. He is one of the youngsters receiving day care at Child Care of the Berkshires.

fertilizer

...truction stage. The concrete sheds, ...another phase of the Clean Lakes ...Program, will prevent fertilizer ...from leaching into the lake and ...nourishing weed growth. Bruce ...Philbrick of the Soil Conservation ...Service and Arthur "Sonny" Wil...liams of the Agricultural Stabiliza...tion and Conservation Service said ...progress toward the construction ...was improved by several months ...after the commissioners made a ...written appeal to Philbrick's ...agency, which is providing technical ...assistance.

The two said construction may begin soon at the Charles Garrity farm in Lanesboro. Williams advised the commissioners to obtain an easement to build the structure.

2/3/88

eeds judged safe for f

...corporated and mixed with the soil ...by cultivation. The weeds contain ...only slightly more molybdenum ...than the maximum allowed for ...sewage sludge and a moderate ap...plication would only increase soil ...molybdenum by a small amount."

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Pontoosuc Lake wee

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Came from the equipment?

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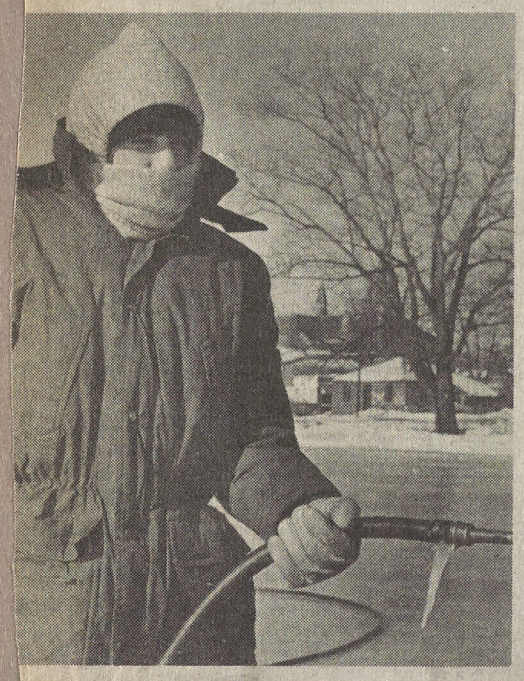
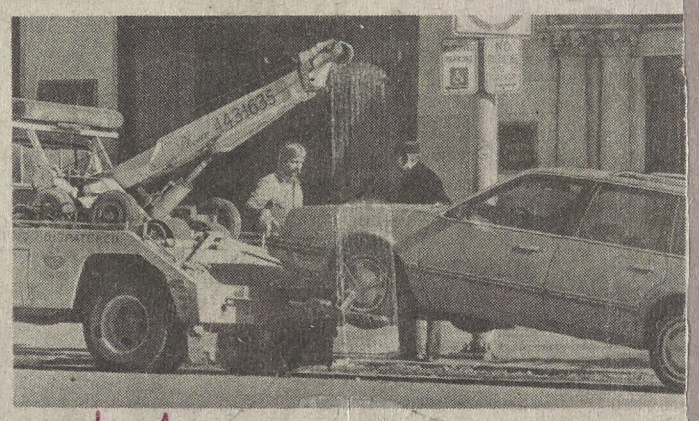
Less than zero

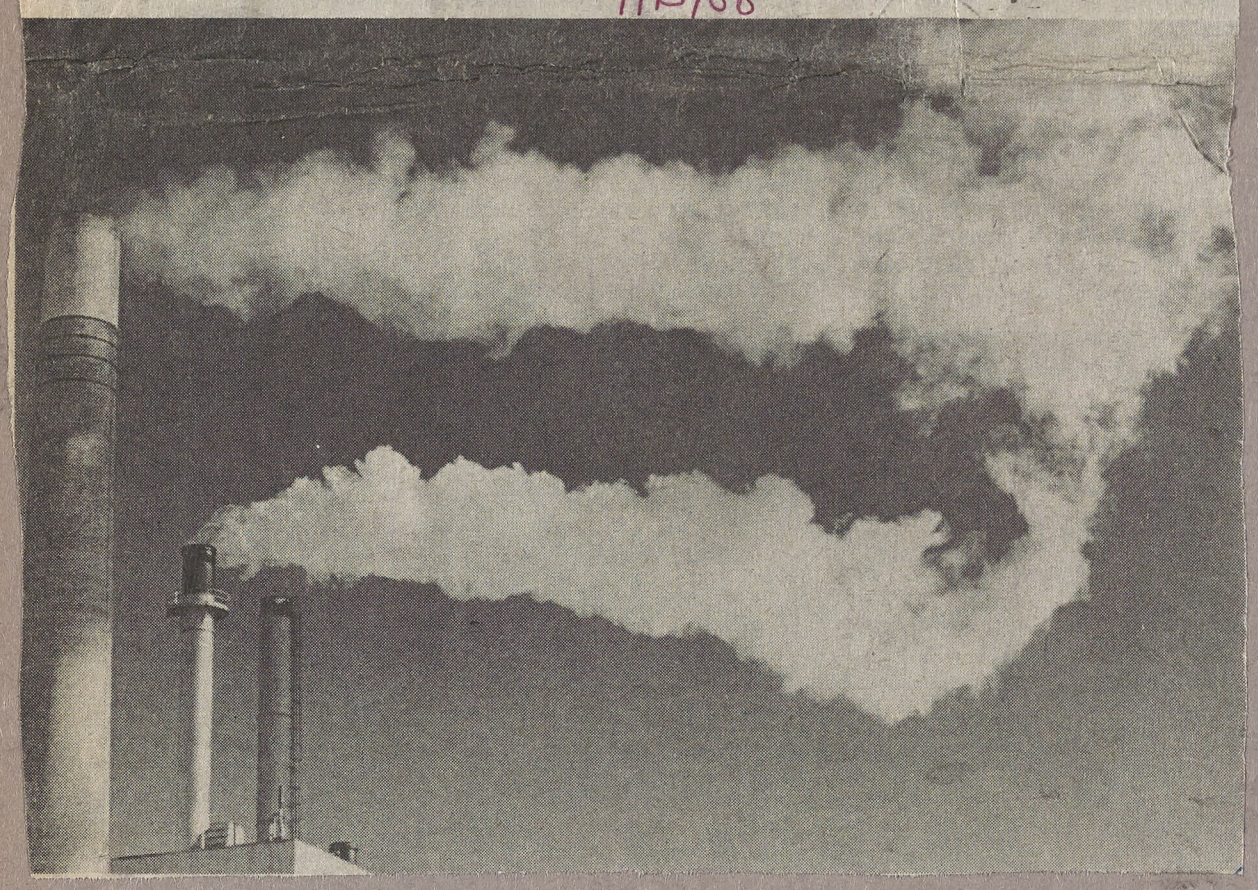
Chilly scenes in Pittsfield. Clockwise from top: Pedestrians on North Street; a car succumbs to the cold; plumes above GE at Silver Lake, Keith Carnute waters down the Common for skating.





1/15/88

Photos by Joel Librizzi



133.

East Street crab-apples uprooted, transplanted

By Steve Moore

PITTSFIELD — After almost two years of debate and argument, accusations and outrage, a dozen flowering crab-apple trees standing in the way of progress on East Street have been moved to new locations.

Working all day yesterday, a crew donated by contractor James H. Maxymillian — the contractor for the road reconstruction project — dug out the 30-year-old trees with a power shovel and placed them on a lowboy, flatbed truck. Some were taken to Kirvin Park on Williams Street and others to Marchesio Park on Dalton Division Road where they were replanted. The trees were moved to allow for the installation of a storm drain system — part of the reconstruction of East Street.

Bernard J. Goclowski, Ward 4 councilman who with Arlia "Tommie" Bailey led the fight to protect the trees from the woodsman's chain saw, admitted that the transplanting is "extremely high risk but it's worth the chance."

Once the decision was made to move the trees, the city hired tree surgeon John R. Flynn of Lenox to prune the trees. Because of the extensive root loss during the dig, the tops were cut back a similar amount.

Goclowski said that while he is happy about giving the trees another home, he is more excited that because of the public outcry, the state Department of Public Works, initially opposed to replanting, relented. Once East Street is completed, 21 young flowering crab-apples, *malus crossradiant* , will be planted on the median.

The state's objection that young trees would obstruct visibility for traffic was removed when Goclowski specified the new trees would be between 12 and 15 feet tall.

Actually, while the public outcry was strident in defense of the trees, concrete evidence of public support was less evident. Bailey, a longtime naturalist, said yesterday that she and Goclowski had opened a bank account for contributions to save the trees, expecting the money to flow in from an outraged public.

"We got about $100," she said, "and most of that was from people from New York state and Dalton."

Goclowski and Bailey gave each other credit for keeping the momentum going, even though many of the trees may not make it. Goclowski has recommended installing a plastic tube in the new site so that they can be watered easily during July and August.

"We know this amounts to a lot of public relations really," Gowclowski said, "but there are a lot of people who will be happy that those trees are still growing. They have been looking at them for a long time."

Area lakes, streams, ponds being stocked with fish 4/6/88

Taking advantage of warm weather and rapidly receding ice from the area's lakes and streams, crews from the western district of the Division of Fisheries and Wildife are already busy stocking trout.

Leo M. Daly, the western district's fisheries manager, said the trout-stocking of the area's lakes, ponds and streams is almost complete and well ahead of schedule.

Daly said the following lakes and ponds received rainbow trout in the 1- to 1¼-pound range:

Pontoosuc and Onota lakes, Pittsfield; Otis Reservoir, Otis; Little Benton Pond, Otis; Stockbrige Bowl, Stockbridge; Lake Buel, Monterey; Laurel Lake, Lee; Goose Pond, Tyringham; Greenwater Pond, Becket.

Rainbow trout have been stocked in the Green River, Great Barrington; Williams River, West Stockbridge; Deerfield River, Florida and Charlemont; Konkapot River, Sheffield; Hop Brook, Tyringham; Farmington River, Otis and Sandisfield.

Brookies and brown trout were stocked in the Housatonic River, east branch, Dalton; Westfield River, middle branch, Worthington, Middlefield and Huntington.

Several streams in Becket are still to be stocked with a mixture of brook and brown trout: Westfield River, west branch, Walker Brook, Yokum Brook and Depot Brook.

Tree planted at Highland, dedicated to George Farley

PITTSFIELD — A flowering crab-apple tree was planted at Highland Elementary School yesterday morning for Arbor Day and dedicated to George T. Farley, who is retiring this June as principal.

The dedication was part of a brief ceremony in front of the school that included all the students and teachers, as well as Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield; Shade Tree Commission members Vincent J. Hebert and Dick Boyce, and Smokey the Bear, who elicited the biggest hand from the kids.

Smokey helped several of the students with planting the tree following a short recounting of the history of Arbor Day by Ken Gooch, supervisor of shade-tree management for the state Department of Environmental Management.

The planting was one of two in the county yesterday. The other was at Plunkett School in Adams. Gooch said DEM sponsors Arbor Day plantings every year at elementary schools to encourage young children to become aware of trees and their importance.

Hebert was more direct.

"I wish somebody would do this more often all over the city," he said. 4/30/88

50 Years Ago

Shades of the East entered into the office of the Pittsfield City Clerk to ask about a permit. Clerks in the office reported that a young, dark, attractive woman appeared to ask if it was necessary to have a permit to engage in the profession of "spiritualism and crystal-gazing." In Pittsfield, no permit was needed for this vocation, at least from mortal city clerks. It was not ascertained where or whether the chambers of mystery would be conducted, though one suggestion was in unknown Ward 8. 7-12-88

Mayor not elected to be council's lackey

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Dictator, a dictatorship, you say [Letters, June 19]? Let not the people be beguiled into thinking those that scream the loudest for the public's salvation are always concerned for its well being. After almost a decade in political servitude and submission, an arrogant voice screams, "dictator."

From the witch's brew of strident hysteria sprang the Neros, Caligulas, Hitlers, Stalins and even a pompous Mussolini. They have long moldered in their graves, but their poisonous seed always exists in the jungle of society, ready to choke democracy and liberty. The masked face is bewitchingly attractive. The lips speak sweetly, but the tongue is rooted in the evil soil of despotism.

Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski was not elected by the people to become the lackey of an all-powerful council of 11 part-time members entrusted with the government of 50,000 people. She is the servant of the people, sensitive and dedicated to one principle, "The welfare of the people is the supreme law."

MICHAEL ARPANTI
30 Britton St.
Pittsfield

6/28/88

Joel Librizzi

. . .

Moving day

2/20/88

Flowering crab-apple trees on the East Street median strip in Pittsfield are being removed for road reconstruction. They will be replanted at Kirvin and Marchesio parks and new trees installed in their place.

Pontoosuc Lake weeds judged safe for fertilizer

PITTSFIELD — Pontoosuc Lake weeds may be used as fertilizer without posing an environmental hazard, according to a University of Massachusetts professor.

In a letter received by the County Commissioners yesterday, John H. Baker, a professor of soil chemistry, said the level of molybdenum found in the weeds last fall, when spread in the fields, will add only 1 percent to the natural level found in the soil. Molybdenum is a metal element.

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Came from the equipment?

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Rotti said yesterday that he had not seen the letter, but was happy with its message. He said he will spread the remaining compost on his fields and plow it under this spring. Still to be determined, Rotti added, are the levels of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, key ingredients of fertilizer.

In a related matter yesterday, the commissioners learned that the first of five manure storage sheds for the Pontoosuc area is nearing the construction stage. The concrete sheds, another phase of the Clean Lakes Program, will prevent fertilizer from leaching into the lake and nourishing weed growth. Bruce Philbrick of the Soil Conservation Service and Arthur "Sonny" Williams of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service said progress toward the construction was improved by several months after the commissioners made a written appeal to Philbrick's agency, which is providing technical assistance.

The two said construction may begin soon at the Charles Garrity farm in Lanesboro. Williams advised the commissioners to obtain an easement to build the structure.

a/3/88

Photos by Susan Plageman

Making the Olympics 'Special'

The 1988 Massachusetts Special Olympics wound up their three-day stay in the Berkshires yesterday at Eastover. In photo above, two of the 300 athletes share a special moment together. Below left, Kurt Schemmel of Belmont hoists the Josh Billings trophy he won with his father, Franz, left, and mother, Judith, right. Below right, Gerald Scheele joyfully displays his bronze medal from the 100-meter cross country race. Story, other photo on Page D12.

2/27/88

Special Olympics even more special to Marlboro champ

By Howard Herman

LENOX — The 1988 Massachusetts Special Olympics Winter Games were dedicated to the memory of Bill Corrieri of Marlboro, the games' first training coordinator who died last month. His son Bill Jr. made it an Olympics to remember.

When Corrieri finished the 100-meter speed skating event and won the gold medal, he told the volunteers at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, "I won it for my father."

That moment was one of several highlights of the Special Olympics, which came to a close yesterday at Eastover Resort. With the torch burning, some 300 mentally and physically handicapped athletes gathered to draw down the curtain on another successful three-day event.

The elder Corrieri was with the Special Olympics for 20 years in a number of capacities. He was the South Middlesex County financial coordinator, and also coached speed skating, weightlifting, basketball, softball and integrated softball.

An extended family

Special Olympics became an extended family for Bill Corrieri Jr., and that has helped the athlete get through his loss.

"Bill's coaches and other volunteers have helped out remarkably with the family. In fact, they're still doing it," said Massachusetts Special Olympics Executive Director Roger Brown. "Were it not for Bill being tied to a program like Special Olympics, he may have had a much tougher time pulling through."

Bill Corrieri Jr., 25, has pulled through nicely, thank you. After earning his gold, plus a silver in the 300-meter speed skating event, he was thrilled to have his pair of medals. Speed skating, he said, isn't his only forte.

"It feels good, just to go out in anything. I play soccer, basketball, run track and skate," the athlete added.

The elder Corrieri set a standard as training coordinator that has seemingly improved the games every year. At each venue, whether it be alpine or cross country skiing, figure or speed skating, the quality of the athlete has both surprised and pleased the organizers and volunteers.

"They're almost the same kids every year. You see them coming up and they're developing more each year," said six-year speed skating volunteer Fred Garner of Pittsfield. "There's some good coaching going on, too."

Susan Plageman

MOVING UP FROM BEHIND is Franklin County's Tom Albano (235), who is about to pass Tom Hicks (131) en route to a gold medal in the senior division of the 3-kilometer cross country race of the Massachusetts Special Olympics Winter Games at Eastover yesterday.

One of the most coveted awards each year is the Josh Billings Award. The Billings event was held Thursday, but the winner wasn't announced until yesterday. The trophy goes to the team that completes two cross country ski runs and one alpine run ahead of the pack. Each team consists of an athlete, a coach and a parent. The winners were Kurt Schemmel and his parents, from South Middlesex.

"We made it," exclaimed Kurt the olympian. His mother Judith was the coach and his father Franz was the parent of the threesome.

"Just what I need on my mantle," Judith Schemmel joked after receiving the 3-foot high trophy.

There were 39 Berkshire County Special Olympians who earned 40 medals. The breakdown was 10 gold, 19 silver and 11 bronze medals. Georgianne Houghtlin of the Berkshire County team won a pair of gold medals in alpine skiing, taking firsts in the developmental glide and developmental 10-meter ski events.

While the athletes get their medals, the volunteers get just as much out of working with the olympians, and maybe more.

"It's really fun. They'll [the athletes] tell you everything, what they're hoping for and things like that," said Pittsfield High senior Kirsten Nelson. "What's really nice is to look at them after winning or competing. They're all so happy."

Nelson and other members of the PHS alpine ski team were volunteers working at yesterday's alpine ski finals at Butternut Basin. Ron Estes, coach of the Taconic alpine ski team, and members of his team were supervising and keeping times at the cross country ski races at Eastover.

Demonstration sport

One of the many Berkshire County volunteers was also trying to get a new sport introduced in the Special Olympics. Joe Racicot, the Taconic girls' basketball coach and a disabled athlete himself, is hoping to see pulk sledding in the winter games next year.

"[Wheelchair] handicapped athletes have nothing to do during the winter games," Racicot explained. "What we're trying to do now is sell the idea to the Special Olympics authorities in Boston. Hopefully, it will be a developmental sport next year and you'll see some of the kids in wheelchairs out on the slopes."

Pulk sledding, which is used in the U.S. Disabled Olympics, is a cross between skiing and sledding for physically disabled athletes. It is a sled with kayak poles to help the athlete steer down the hill. There is also a person riding on the back of the sled for additional balance.

Praise for 'community effort'

Special Olympics' executive director couldn't have been happier with the way this year's event turned out.

"The games keep getting better and better. This year has been absolutely outstanding," Brown said. "This is really a community effort. The local residents get charged up about it. They pitch in and pull off some remarkable things."

The most remarkable thing about the Winter Special Olympics, according to volunteer Racicot, is the feeling one gets helping.

"The warmth and atmosphere here," he said at the closing ceremonies, "you can feel it once you walk onto the grounds."

Mark Mitchell

Waiting for a bite

5/1/88

Katie MacDonald, 6, of Dexter Street is patiently waiting to catch a fish in Pittsfield's annual children's fishing derby at Wild Acres park. The contest, which draws lots of youngsters, continues today.

Trail at Wild Acres will be dedicated

PITTSFIELD — The Franklin H. Controy Trail at Wild Acres will be dedicated Wednesday afternoon at 4 at the recreation area on South Mountain Road. A brief ceremony will feature remarks by Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski.

The trail, named in honor of the late conservationist, will allow general access to the 70-acre property, which is under the stewardship of the Pittsfield Conservation Commission. An illustrated booklet prepared by the Berkshire Conservation District will be available to visitors to guide them. The trail has been laid out by the district with the assistance of the Housatonic River Watershed Association and the Massachusetts Division of Forests and Parks.

Wild Acres includes a pavilion and a stock pond. The area is open to individuals and groups. Local teachers are invited to the dedication to acquaint themselves with the park as a possible resource for class field trips.

6/12/88

Richard Cronin

Dick Cronin, wildlife boss, dead at 61

HARVARD — Richard "Dick" Cronin, 61, director of the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for the past nine years, died Sunday of cancer at his home here.

Cronin's first post in his 38-year career with the division was in the western wildlife management district, headquartered in Pittsfield. He worked in the Berkshire area for four years on a variety of projects, including stream and river research.

George L. Darey of Lenox, chairman of the board of Fisheries and Wildlife, said, "I have lost a very good friend."

"His real contribution was that he brought the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife into the 20th century."

Theodore Giddings, longtime Berkshire County sportsman, said "one of his greatest attributes was that he was able to speak the language of the average sportsman, hunter and fisherman. He related very well to them. He was considered an effective advocate before the Legislature for the interests of the people he represented."

George Wislocki, executive director of the

Dick Cronin

Continued on Page B2

7-26-88

Dick Cronin dies at 61

Continued from Page B1

Berkshire Natural Resources Council, said, "He was a lovely man. He was someone who fought for his interests, and his interests included all the concerns of environmentalists."

Vincent J. Hebert, director of Pittsfield's department of community services and a longtime friend, called his career "outstanding in all respects."

Cronin, called Dick by all who knew him, directed the restoration of the wild turkey to levels high enough to permit hunting, built the state deer herd to an unprecedented population of animals, and fostered non-game conservation instrumental in restoring eagles to the state.

His efforts were also considered crucial in the restoration of the Atlantic Salmon in New England rivers, particularly the Merrimack and the Connecticut.

He was considered a key figure, along with U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, in the recent establishment at Turners Falls, of the multimillion-dollar Northeast Anadromous Fish Laboratory of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Began in college

He began his career with the division during college with a summer job on a wood duck survey, and went to work for the division full time after graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1951 with a degree in wildlife management.

After spending four years in Pittsfield, Cronin subsequently held the jobs of fisheries manager for the Northeast district, district manager, a post he held for 12 years, superintendent of field operations and public relations officer, which he held from 1970 to 1976.

In February, he was honored by having the division's field headquarters in Westboro named the Richard Cronin Building. The designation was made through a bill signed by the Legislature. Shortly before that designation, the House of Representatives passed a resolution, signed by every member, congratuating him on his life work.

The headquarter's building was the old Lyman School for Boys in Westboro, which he had spent a decade trying to secure for the division.

In an interview at the time, Cronin said one of his top priorities was the acquisition of land for open space for wildlife. Cronin was active in community affairs, serving for 11 years as moderator for the town of Harvard, and in Boy Scout work, for which he was presented its highest level of recognition, the Silver Beaver award.

In an interview in February, Walter Bickford, commissioner of the department, who has known Cronin since the 1970s, called him "a true environmentalist."

"Professionally, his whole life is fisheries and wildlife."

Born in Ipswich Sept. 12, 1926, he was the son of Frederick and Katherine Cronin. During World War II, he entered the Navy, and was sent to the Naval Flight Training School at Pensacola, Fla., to teach pilots swimming and water safety.

Among his achievements, he received the Wildlife Conservation Award from the National Wildlife Foundation and Sears, Roebuck Foundation; he received special commendations from the Leagues of Sportsmen in Middlesex, Essex and Norfolk counties for his efforts in behalf of hunting and fishing in the Commonwealth.

At the time of his death, he was chairman of the executive committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Earlier this year, he was presented with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award, its highest honor for non-agency individuals.

He served on the board of directors of the Nashua River Watershed Association, the Nashua Valley Council of Boy Scouts, the Harvard Conservation Trust, and was a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Nashoba Community Hospital.

Survivors

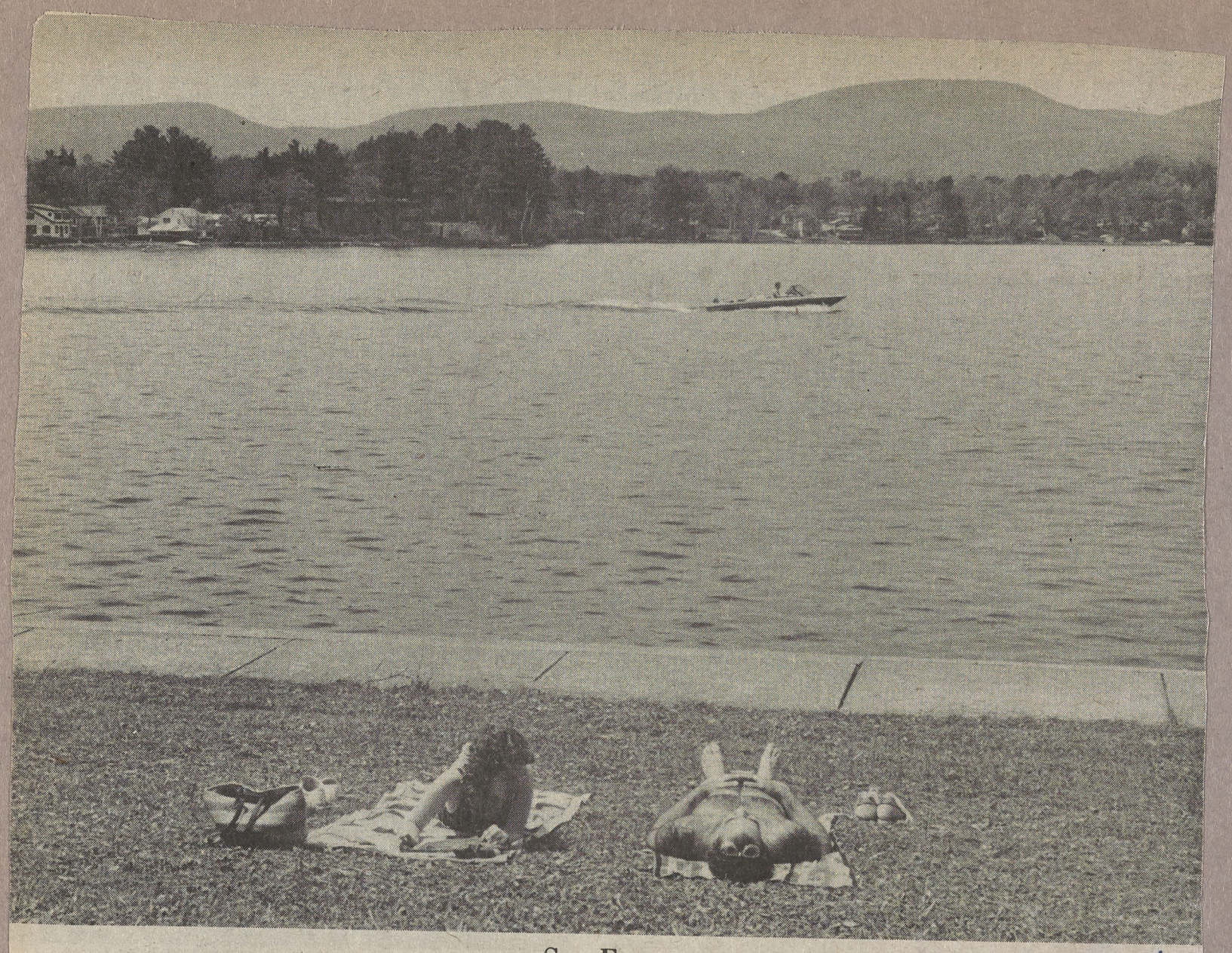
He leaves his wife, the former Jean Hornby; two daughters, Deborah Cronin-Brown, director of women's recreation at the Dalton Community Center, and Cathy Gile of Westminster; a son, Maj. Steven Cronin of Fort Devens; two granddaughters, two brothers and two sisters.

A memorial service will be held at the Harvard High School Sunday at 1 p.m. Arrangements are under the direction of the Badger Funeral Home here.

After cremation, burial will be in the family plot in Bellevue Cemetery.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Richard Cronin Scholarship Fund at the Forest and Wildlife Department, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

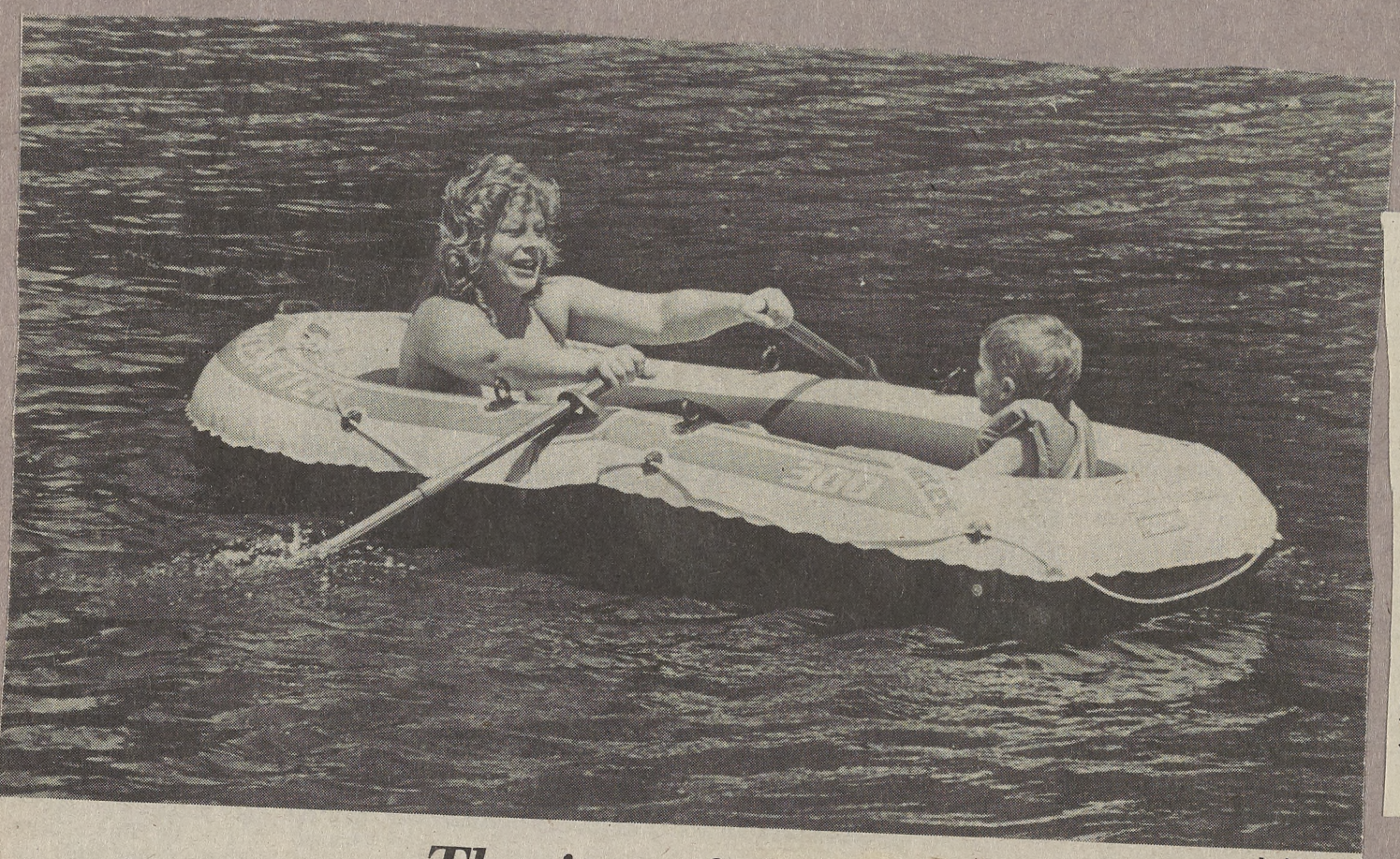
7-26-88



Sun Fun

After many days of on-and-off rain and chills, yesterday's summer-like sunshine was a glorious relief. Immediately, sunbathers and boaters appeared at Pontoosuc Lake.

5/28/88



The joy of rowing

Joel Librizzi

From the look on Sharlene Shaw's face, a row on Pontoosuc Lake with her nephew, Joel Castoldi, 3, on a beautiful spring day is pure pleasure.

5/28/88

Beach attendance double last year's

PITTSFIELD — The city's public beaches were the cool places to be this summer as nearly twice as many people used the facilities as did last year.

Recreation Director John C. Marchesi said 21,315 people visited the city's beaches this summer compared to 11,200 in 1987. The beaches siphoned off some of the regular city-park users as attendence at the superivised playgrounds dropped from 9,320 in 1987 to 5,775 this year.

Despite constant use, park equipment survived the summer without suffering from any major vandalism, Marchesi said.

10-21-88

County untangles lake weed issues

Continued from Page A1

Nowadays, eutrophication is being accelerated or intensified by man through discharge of sewage and the use of fertilizers on lawns and farm fields, for two examples. Both boost the growth of weeds.

From Lake Buel in Monterey to Hoosac Lake in Cheshire, users have cursed for at least 20 years the growth of weeds that tangle in motorboat propellers, catch anglers' lines and wrap tendrils around swimmers' legs.

Storage prevents runoff

Thousands of pounds of chemical herbicides have been spread on the lakes. Tons of weeds have been cut and hauled away. Some lakes have been drawn down in winter months so weed roots will freeze. Still they persist, and it is because of this that people who have enlisted in the weed battle view Tuesday's otherwise routine bid opening as a milestone.

The bids will be just for the design of the first manure storage tank, which will be on the Charles Garrity dairy farm in Lanesboro. Construction is expected later in the summer or early fall after a second round of bids.

When the tank is built, the Garritys will be able to store manure during the winter instead of spreading it on fields, as in years past. Storage will prevent the runoff that used to pour phosphorous-rich water into the streams feeding Pontoosuc. A countywide water-quality assessment by the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission in 1976 cited agricultural runoff as a major source of phosphorous, a fertilizing agent.

At the same time, the commission recommended steps to reduce the problem, leading to the present proposal to build storage systems on the five or six farms in the watershed. But the plan to build them with public funds became a policy issue that took more than two years to resolve.

It has been just one of many in the sequence of stops and starts, twists and turns that have marked public efforts in Berkshire County to remove weeds from lakes.

In April 1986, when the Berkshire County Commissioners, planners from the regional planning commission, and representatives of the state Division of Water Pollution Control met on the matter of the manure tanks at the county courthouse, the agricultural waste management plan was going down the tube.

The commonwealth, said one of its lawyers, Dean Spencer, cannot put public funds into a structure on private land. If that's so, answered county planners, then the removal of weeds from around private docks and private beaches in Pontoosuc and many other Berkshire lakes would be forbidden, too, even though it had been done for years with public funds.

Public good argued

The planning commission's director, Karl Hekler, argued that the overall public benefit to Pontoosuc and to the thousands of people who use it outweighed the narrow restriction cited by Spencer.

Spencer, recalling the matter last week in a telephone conversation from Boston, said it wasn't a case of his being an obstructionist but of dealing with legal restrictions on bond-issue revenue under a 1981 law that provides for state aid in long-range lake-cleanup projects.

The solution was to require easements at the manure-storage sites, but it took more than a year to get the state's OK.

As weed-control advocates look back on their years of battling for clearer waters, some occasionally chuckle at the thought that the fight largely stems from the proliferation of one species, a foreign one at that.

Eurasian milfoil was carried to the lakes and ponds of Berkshire County 25 years ago on motorboat propellers and boat-trailer wheels. Fast-growing and easily spread, it has become the bane of swimmers, boaters, lake-shore residents and town officials. Its presence has generated enough complaints to choke a sturgeon and spawned any number of programs to combat it.

It has been doused with chemicals, cut by the barge-load and dug out of the shallows. Under the 1981 act called the Clean Lakes and Great Ponds Program, the commonwealth has poured $765,000 into seven of the county's most intensely used recreational lakes for diagnostic studies, equipment purchases and maintenance projects aimed at long-range reduction of weeds and weed growth.

Besides Pontoosuc, the lakes are Buel in Monterey and New Marlboro, Prospect in Egremont, Mansfield in Great Barrington, Onota in Pittsfield, Richmond Pond and Stockbridge Bowl. Milfoil clogs all of them.

Local matching funds have produced an additional $272,000, for a total of slightly more than $1 million. The state has pumped probably as much again into these and other lakes over the past 15 to 20 years simply to kill off weeds with herbicides.

Smoother sailing ahead

Yet for all of this, clearer waters appear to lie ahead.

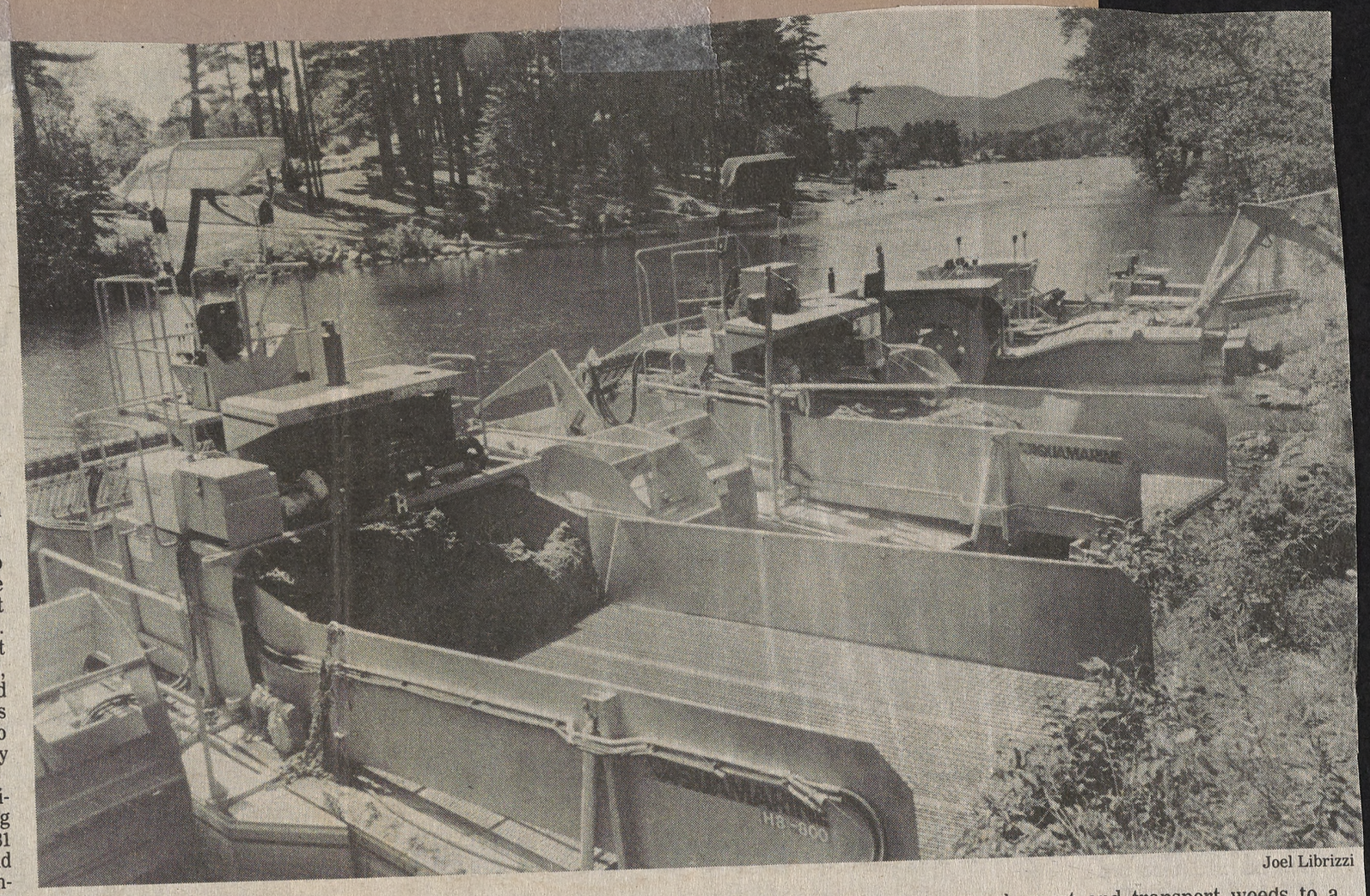
Besides the step toward abating farmland runoff near Pontoosuc, two contracts have finally been let for design of a "lake-level control structure," or levee, and for an accompanying environmental impact study at 196-acre Lake Buel, responding to a demand that dates back to the 1970s.

The County Commission, which owns the water rights at Pontoosuc, last year bought, with about $270,000 in Clean Lakes money, the single largest concentration of weed-harvesting equipment in the county: three harvesters, a hydro rake, trailers, a barge, trucks and a conveyor.

Menard, who heads the County Commission's clean-lakes committee, says the equipment will not only be used on Pontoosuc but hired out for use on other public-access lakes. Cutting was done at Laurel Lake in Lee and Lake Mansfield last year. It will be repeated there and at Richmond Pond and Onota Lake this year.

The county charges $24 an hour for the largest harvester, which Menard said is affordable to most towns and substantially less than costs he has been told are charged by private contractors.

Harvesters also exist at Lake



Joel Librizzi

CONVOY of weed-harvesting vessels, bought by the county for some $270,000, is tied up at Pontoosuc Lake. The various pieces of equipment mow, harvest and transport weeds to a local farmer who composts the material for fertilizer.

County untangles lake weed issues

Continued from Page A1

Nowadays, eutrophication is being accelerated or intensified by man through discharge of sewage and the use of fertilizers on lawns and farm fields, for two examples. Both boost the growth of weeds.

From Lake Buel in Monterey to Hoosac Lake in Cheshire, users have cursed for at least 20 years the growth of weeds that tangle in motorboat propellers, catch anglers' lines and wrap tendrils around swimmers' legs.

Storage prevents runoff

Thousands of pounds of chemical herbicides have been spread on the lakes. Tons of weeds have been cut and hauled away. Some lakes have been drawn down in winter months so weed roots will freeze. Still they persist, and it is because of this that people who have enlisted in the weed battle view Tuesday's otherwise routine bid opening as a milestone.

The bids will be just for the design of the first manure storage tank, which will be on the Charles Garrity dairy farm in Lanesboro. Construction is expected later in the summer or early fall after a second round of bids.

When the tank is built, the Garritys will be able to store manure during the winter instead of spreading it on fields, as in years past. Storage will prevent the runoff that used to pour phosphorous-rich water into the streams feeding Pontoosuc. A countywide water-quality assessment by the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission in 1976 cited agricultural runoff as a major source of phosphorous, a fertilizing agent.

At the same time, the commission recommended steps to reduce the problem, leading to the present proposal to build storage systems on the five or six farms in the watershed. But the plan to build them with public funds became a policy issue that took more than two years to resolve.

It has been just one of many in the sequence of stops and starts, twists and turns that have marked public efforts in Berkshire County to remove weeds from lakes.

In April 1986, when the Berkshire County Commissioners, planners from the regional planning commission, and representatives of the state Division of Water Pollution Control met on the matter of the manure tanks at the county courthouse, the agricultural waste management plan was going down the tube.

The commonwealth, said one of its lawyers, Dean Spencer, cannot put public funds into a structure on private land. If that's so, answered county planners, then the removal of weeds from around private docks and private beaches in Pontoosuc and many other Berkshire lakes would be forbidden, too, even though it had been done for years with public funds.

Public good argued

The planning commission's director, Karl Hekler, argued that the overall public benefit to Pontoosuc and to the thousands of people who use it outweighed the narrow restriction cited by Spencer.

Spencer, recalling the matter last week in a telephone conversation from Boston, said it wasn't a case of his being an obstructionist but of dealing with legal restrictions on bond-issue revenue under a 1981 law that provides for state aid in long-range lake-cleanup projects.

The solution was to require easements at the manure-storage sites, but it took more than a year to get the state's OK.

As weed-control advocates look back on their years of battling for clearer waters, some occasionally chuckle at the thought that the fight largely stems from the proliferation of one species, a foreign one at that.

Eurasian milfoil was carried to the lakes and ponds of Berkshire County 25 years ago on motorboat propellers and boat-trailer wheels. Fast-growing and easily spread, it has become the bane of swimmers, boaters, lake-shore residents and town officials. Its presence has generated enough complaints to choke a sturgeon and spawned any number of programs to combat it.

It has been doused with chemicals, cut by the barge-load and dug out of the shallows. Under the 1981 act called the Clean Lakes and Great Ponds Program, the commonwealth has poured $765,000 into seven of the county's most intensely used recreational lakes for diagnostic studies, equipment purchases and maintenance projects aimed at long-range reduction of weeds and weed growth.

Besides Pontoosuc, the lakes are Buel in Monterey and New Marlboro, Prospect in Egremont, Mansfield in Great Barrington, Onota in Pittsfield, Richmond Pond and Stockbridge Bowl. Milfoil clogs all of them.

Local matching funds have produced an additional $272,000, for a total of slightly more than $1 million. The state has pumped probably as much again into these and other lakes over the past 15 to 20 years simply to kill off weeds with herbicides.

Smoother sailing ahead

Yet for all of this, clearer waters appear to lie ahead.

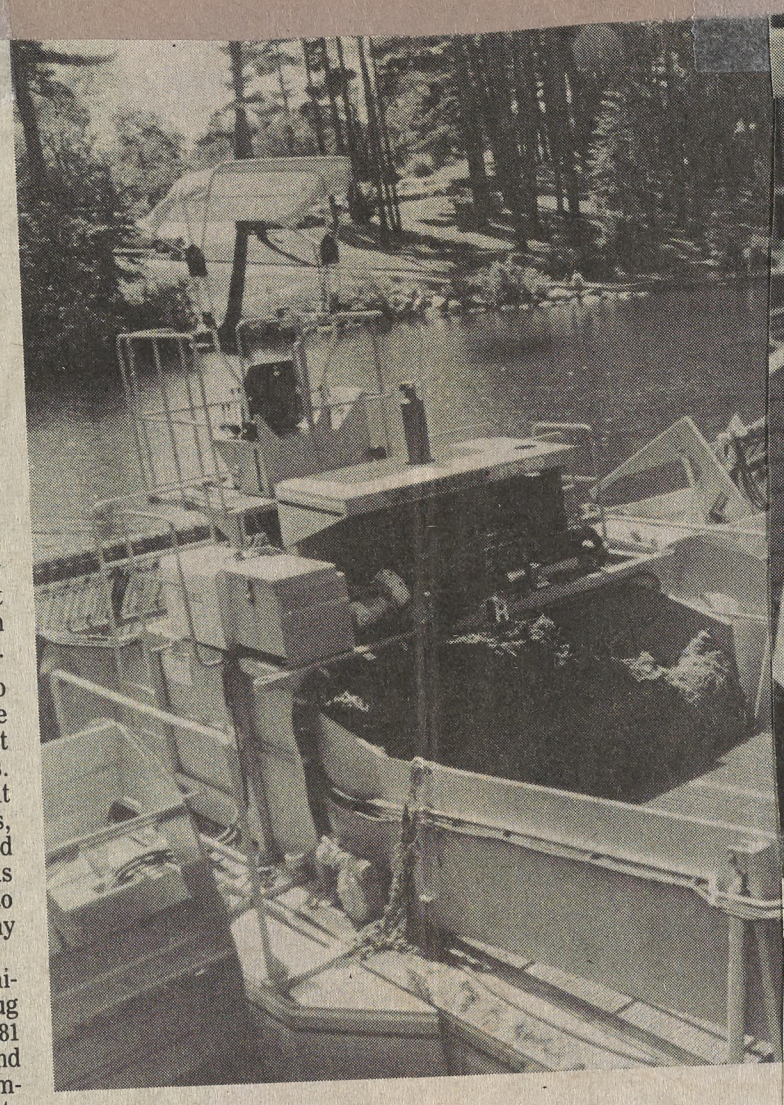
Besides the step toward abating farmland runoff near Pontoosuc, two contracts have finally been let for design of a "lake-level control structure," or levee, and for an accompanying environmental impact study at 196-acre Lake Buel, responding to a demand that dates back to the 1970s.

The County Commission, which owns the water rights at Pontoosuc, last year bought, with about $270,000 in Clean Lakes money, the single largest concentration of weed-harvesting equipment in the county: three harvesters, a hydro rake, trailers, a barge, trucks and a conveyor.

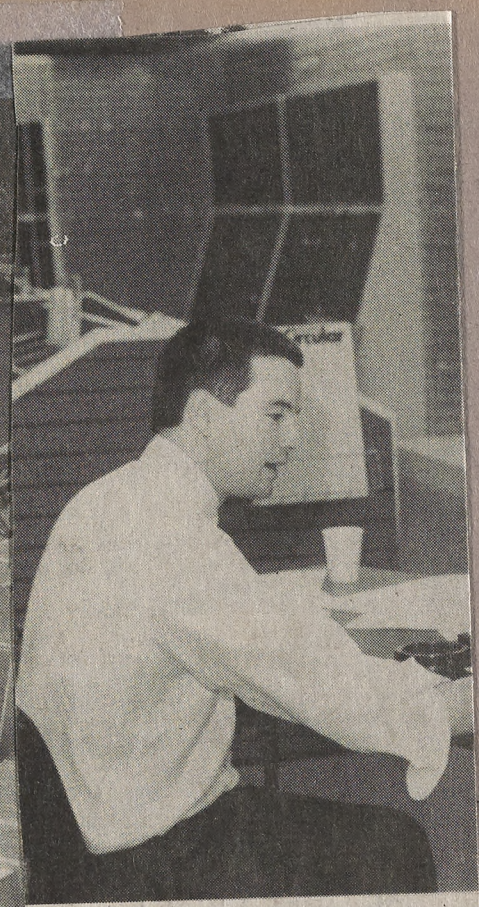
Menard, who heads the County Commission's clean-lakes committee, says the equipment will not only be used on Pontoosuc but hired out for use on other public-access lakes. Cutting was done at Laurel Lake in Lee and Lake Mansfield last year. It will be repeated there and at Richmond Pond and Onota Lake this year.

The county charges $24 an hour for the largest harvester, which Menard said is affordable to most towns and substantially less than costs he has been told are charged by private contractors.

Harvesters also exist at Lake



CONVOY of weed-harvesting vessels, bought by the C for some $270,000, is tied up at Pontoosuc Lake. The v



DISCUSSING future employment interviewer Michael King, left, and job

Pyramid wo

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State approval is needed for one

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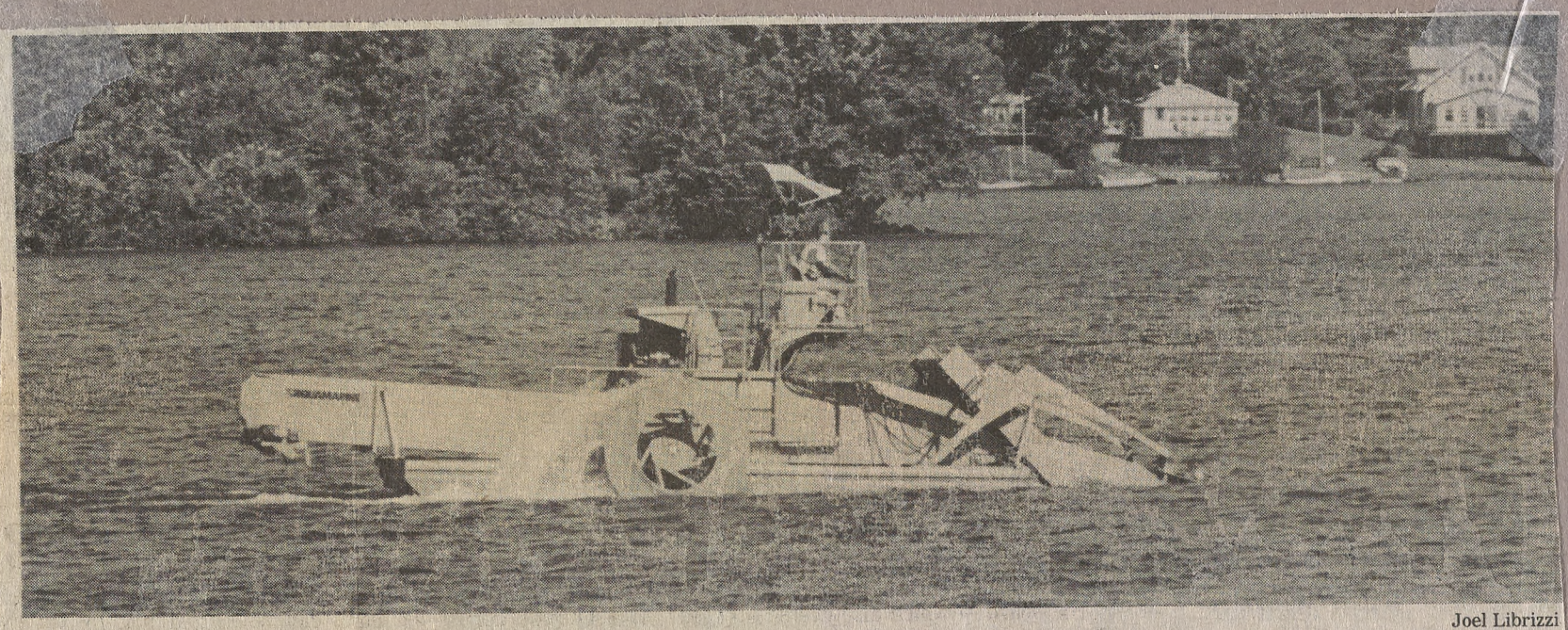


Joel Librizzi

PONTOOSUC is being completely mowed twice this summer, and beaches and boat ramps will be done four times.

Buel and Stockbridge Bowl, bought by the governing towns.

Menard says the county won't use its equipment on private lakes, which is unfortunate in the case of shallow, 500-acre Hoosac Lake, a paradise for milfoil and a less publicized companion: potamogeton crispus. "We could really do a job of removal there," Menard said.

Raymond P. Fisher, chairman of an organization of property owners around the lake, suggested the cost might be too great anyway. At present, the town of Cheshire and the state Legislature combine appropriations to pay for chemical herbicide treatment, which this year was completed on June 30 for about $37,000. The problem is that harvesting costs more than herbiciding.

"We calculate it would take 17 weeks to do a first cutting in the lake's [255-acre] north basin," said Fisher. "Herbiciding the basin took 10 hours."

Perhaps annoying and certainly ironic is that milfoil grows best in alkaline lakes like Hoosac. Highly acidified North Pond in the Florida section of Savoy State Forest, for example, has no milfoil. Acidic lakes, however, don't support much life of any kind.

Available funds limited

Where the weeds do grow, it takes money, lots of it, to keep the lakes clear, and there is only so much to go around. The commonwealth has allocated $4 million this year to the Clean Lakes program, but applications are for substantially more than that, state officials say. Still, there are 150 projects under way including those in the Berkshires.

No one denies that progress has been frustrating. "The hassles, the forms and the paperwork are a nightmare," said Menard.

William S. Enser of Lee, proprietor of Berkshire Enviro-Labs and a resource developer who specializes in lake management, has little good to say about the state bureaucracy. Its overzealous caution against overstepping regulation and law, he contends, often blocks commonsense decisions that could solve problems quickly — and legally.

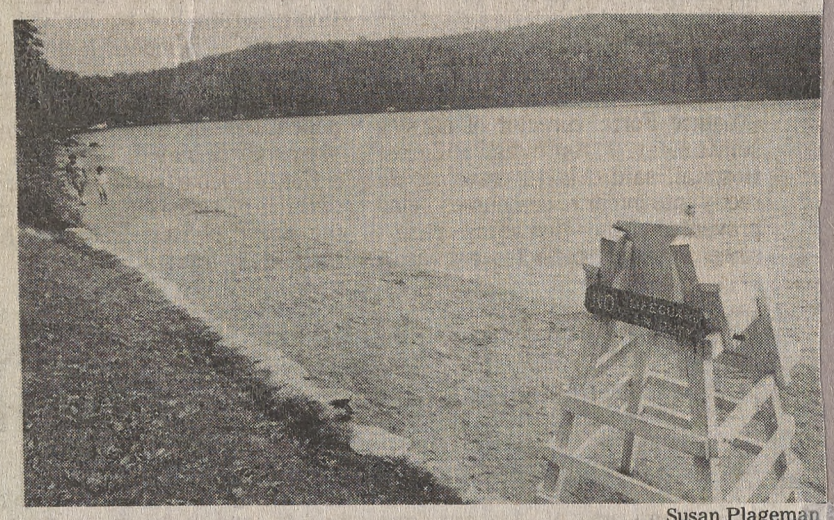
The latest contract for environmental work at Lake Buel, where he is a consultant, could have cost less than the present $90,000, he said, if he had been allowed to collect water samples for the winning bidder. As it was, he said, this was ruled a conflict of interest, even though he had offered the service to whichever firm was finally chosen.

"I believe in the state ethics code," he declared, "but this thing took months to evaluate and cost taxpayers more because of government paranoia."

Despite examples like this, however, improvements are beginning to be noticed. That Lake Buel is finally on the road to design of a levee is one example. Mary V. Flynn, veteran selectman in Stockbridge, believes weed control in heavily used Stockbridge Bowl has significantly improved since the town bought a weed harvester two years ago.

Lake management "has got to be operated as a business," said Enser, "because that's what it is."

Robert Spencer, former environmental planner for the regional planning commission and now working for a private consulting firm, agrees that progress has been made. "A lot of people have volunteered thousands of hours" to promote cleanup efforts, he said. "They are beginning to pay off."



Susan Plageman

CLEAN but endangered, North Pond in Savoy State Forest is weed-free and fish-free, a victim of acid rain. 7.17.1988

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Pittsfield Department of Recreation girls' softball league has scheduled registration tomorrow from 10 to noon and Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the department office, 874 North St.

The league is open to Pittsfield girls who will be at least 10 years old before Sept. 1 but not 16 years old by Aug. 31. It is divided into two divisions, a minor league for ages 10 to 12 and a major league for 13 to 15.

A $5 registration fee and a $5 shirt deposit are required at registration. All girls who register will be placed on teams at the meeting of coaches Thursday. Coaches will contact their players to inform them of practice and game schedules.

5/6/88

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Department of Recreation girls' softball league still needs two coaches for its Minor Division (age 10-12) for the 1988 season. The season begins with registration May 7 and 10 and continues with games and practices through the first week of August. The Minor Division plays Monday through Wednesday evenings, with Thursdays used for rain dates. All games and practices are designed to be instructional and recreational.

Anyone interested in coaching should contact Susan Stella at the Department of Recreation. 4/22/88

Wojtkowski will help open girls' league

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation girls' softball league will play its season openers tomorrow.

Games will be played at Pittsfield High School, Clapp, Springside Park Zoo and Benedict fields. Mayor Anne Everest Wojtkowski will formally open the season at Pittsfield High at 6 p.m. before the game between the Orioles and the Brewers. All other games for that evening will be held at 6:30 so everyone can attend the opening ceremony.

The girls' league started off playing just within the league and grew more competitive by playing in several tournaments each year. In 1984 and 1987, the Minors were runners-up in the Amateur Softball Association state championships.

There are more than 200 players registered this year. They are divided into two divisions, the Majors, age 13-15, and the Minors, age 10-12. The Majors, which have six teams, play Monday through Wednesday on Pittsfield High School and Clapp field. The Minors, which have seven teams, play Monday through Thursday on Zoo and Benedict fields. 6/5/88

Pittsfield girls' league

Jennifer St. John belted a grand slam home run as the Expos blanked the Giants 15-0 in the Minor Division of the Pittsfield Recreation Department's girls' league.

Heather Arseneau and Mary Butler added two hits apiece for the Expos, while Jery Mineau delivered a pair of hits for the Giants.

Kim Myrick's grand slam and a home run by Erin Hinkell helped lift the Expos to a 13-10 triumph over the Red Sox. St. John added a pair of hits for the Expos, while Amy Rembish rapped out two hits for the Sox.

Kim Bolland struck out 12 and Lori Booth had two hits as the Dodgers edged the Falcons 5-4. Jodi Hollingsworth and Lisa Gadette each had three hits to lead the Falcons.

A two-hit effort by Christie Connors helped boost the Phillies past the Dodgers by an 8-7 count, while Colleen and Cathleen Doyle each had two hits in the Phillies' 12-11 win over the Mets. 7-14-88

Girls softball

The girls' softball all-star team from the Pittsfield Recreation Department league has been announced.

Team members are; Nancy Ringer, Becky Ladley, Pam Jones, Jody Hessler, Kristen Fiedler, Traci Rand, Heather Rand, Debbie Munger, Stacy Rainey, Jen Rabidoux, Alexia Trova, Kristine Barsousky, Liz Vallone, Marci Cornell, Terry Mierzejewski and Jodi Gilardi.

The all-star coaches of the age-15-and-under team are Dave Fiedler and Lorry Decorie. 6/30/88

Girls' minor division

The Red Sox posted a couple of high-scoring wins in the Pittsfield Parks girls' minor division, 28-27 over the Falcons and 32-24 over the Giants. Amy Rembish and Vicki Bilski combined for eight hits, including two homers, and nine RBI in the win over the Falcons, which got two homers from Jodi Hollingsworth and one from Angela Fields.

Rembish and Danielle Morris each homered in the win over the Giants, as each team scored 11 runs in a wild first inning.

In other action, Erin Hinkell, Jennifer St. John, Heather Decelles and Danelle Jones each had two hits to lead the Expos to a 17-13 win over the Mets. Claire Wilker had two homers, including a grand slam, for the Mets. 7-20-88

Parks Department girls

Chalice Polidoro hit two homers and drove in five runs to lead the Red Sox past the Phillies 13-8 in the Minor Division of the Pittsfield Parks & Recreation girls' softball league.

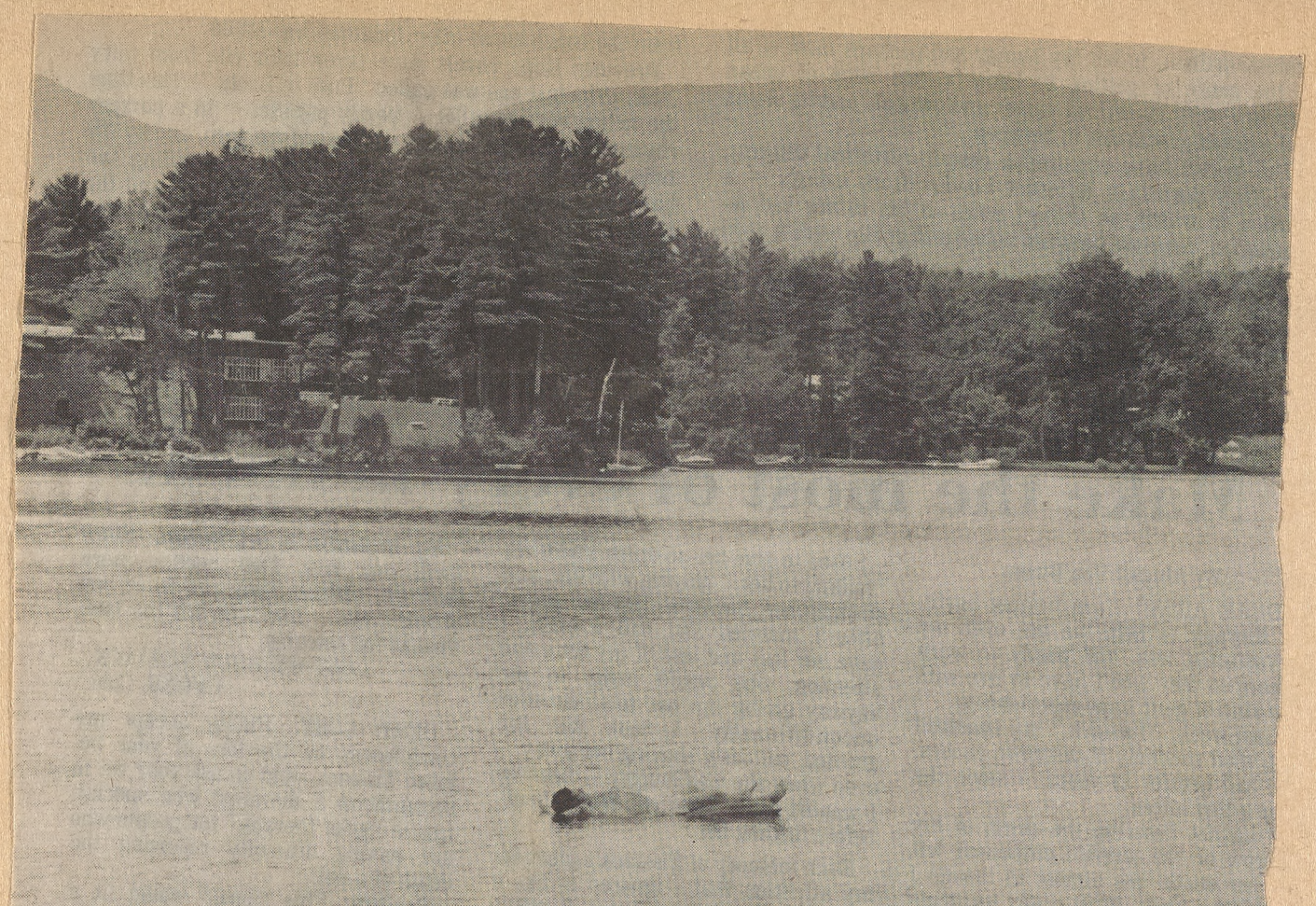
In other games, winning pitcher Caroline Herman had four hits and four RBI, Jean Bishop two hits and four RBI and Lauri Beuth two hits as the Dodgers won 13-10 over the Mets; winner Stephanie Ladley had three hits and four RBI and Kim Myrick and Kellie Powers combined for four hits and seven RBI as the Expos won 24-3 over the Falcons; June 11, 1988

Area Sports

Dept. of Recreation seeks coaches for girls' softball

GIRLS' SOFTBALL: The Pittsfield Department of Recreation girls' softball league is seeking one minor league coach and one major league coach for the coming season. The program begins with registration May 7 and 10 and continues with games through about Aug. 5. The league is divided into minor (age 10-12) and major (age 13-15) divisions.

Interested coaches should contact Susan Stella at the Department of Recreation. 3/23/88



Out of Touch

8-13-88

Experiencing no stress from ringing phones or anything else, a fellow on an air mattress floats lethargically far out in Pontoosuc Lake. He was also cool.

Rules of the water

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Lynne Daley's story in the Aug. 21 Eagle headlined "Armada of boats filling lakes" called attention to both the proliferation of power boats on Onota and Pontoosuc lakes as well as to the yearly increase in their power and size. She missed the mark, however, when she wrote, "very few people have trouble with the rules of the water." There are no rules.

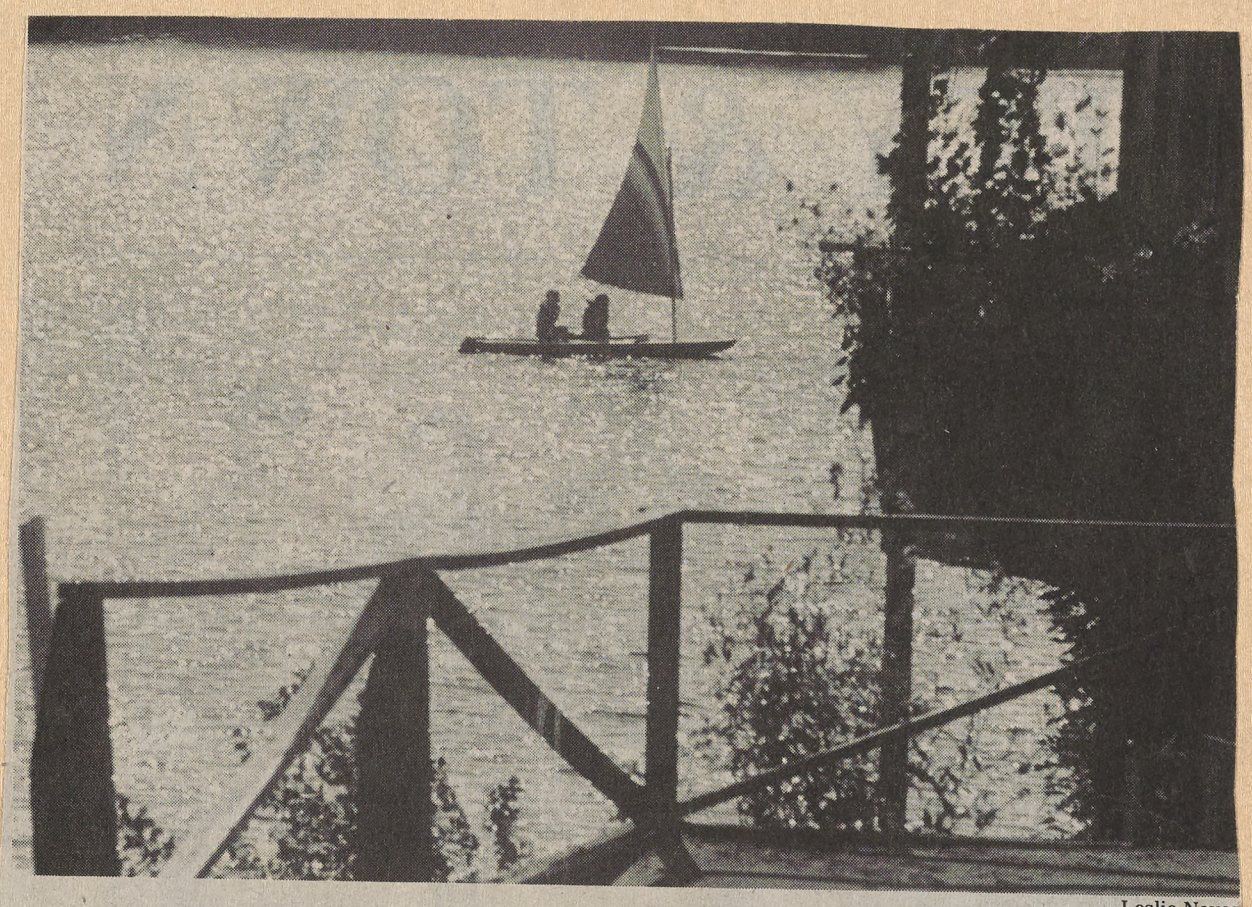
In the motorized playpens that area lakes have become, boats are driven with reckless abandon by drunks, children too young to operate a car legally, and by young- and middle-aged macho males who use their boats and jet skis to make a statement. "Look at me, I'm in charge." The attitude of too many power boaters seems to be, "I'll drive my boat as I damn please." There is no one to say them "nay."

Daley writes, "For the most part boaters have nothing but nice things to say about other boaters." She should have listened to what fishermen, canoers, swimmers, sailors, scullers and windsurfers have to say about the arrogant crowd that infest the lakes on summer weekends with their noisy and dangerous toys.

JOHN H. RICE

Blythewood Drive
Pittsfield

8-26-88



Leslie Noyes

Sparkling sail

8-11-88

Gliding over glistening waters, a couple enjoys sailing in the Thomas Island cove at Onota Lake.

Water safety meeting

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The crowded Sept. 19 public hearing held by Cliff Nilan's Park Commission on water safety was marked by a sense of reasonableness and cooperation. Motor boaters and water skiers readily admitted that existing state regulations need more enforcement. Spokesmen for the quieter users of the lake such as canoers, swimmers and sailboaters appeared to accept as reasonable the statement that boat speeds of 45 mph are necessary for competitive water skiing.

The strongest complaints voiced at the meeting concerned the noise generated by jet skis as well as the reckless and thoughtless way in which they are operated. If there were any jet ski owners present at the hearing they did not respond to the serious charges made against them. Their silence is testimony to their selfishness.

The consensus of the meeting was that the quality of life on the lakes can be improved by cooperation. It will be tragic if a small group of self-gratifying hot rodders on jet skis is allowed to spoil one of the Berkshires' most attractive assets. Without an expressed willingness by jet skiers to cooperate with other users of the lakes, the alternative solution is to prohibit the use of jet skies on Onota and Pontoosuc lakes.

JOHN H. RICE

Blythewood Drive
Pittsfield

9-27-88

Joel Librizzi

ZIPPING over the surface of Pontoosuc Lake, a jet ski driver is having fun. On the other hand, the noise and thrashing about of the machines have angered shore dwellers, who want them banned.

Battle lines are forming over jet skis

Banning the small, speedy craft proposed by critics

By Dan Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Where you stand on the issue of "personal watercraft" — better known as jet skis — seems to depend mostly on whether you stand on them.

To those who do stand, sit, or lie down on their padded seats, they are "wicked fun," "a natural high," a great way for the whole family to get wet, and no more sinister than a snowmobile.

To those who watch them from the shore, they are "aquatic buzzsaws," "stinkpots," "a pain in the a--," or "just plain trash."

What everybody agrees on is that Kawasaki Jet Skis, and other brands of water scooters referred to generically as "jet skis," are growing quickly in popularity. Berkshire County dealers say more people than ever are buying the machines, or just coming in for a look (which is $3,000 to $4,000 cheaper than a purchase).

There are an estimated 500,000 water scooters in the United States, and Paul Traversa, sales manager of Ronnie's Cycle Sales and Service in Adams, says there are probably 500 in Berkshire County. Some of them, like the Jet Ski itself, are meant to be stood upon; they make a droning noise that sounds something like "We haul, we haul," as they "porpoise" over waves, and they are so maneuverable that experts can spin them 360 degrees or dunk them underwater. Others, like the American-made Fazer, are more like hydroplanes; these single or double-seat cruisers emit a piercing scream and are most fun when they are driven straight ahead, fast.

Though jet skis have been around for more than 10 years, people who live on some small Berkshire lakes are seeing them for the first time this summer; at larger lakes, residents are seeing twice as many jet skis as last year.

And many citizens are preparing to do battle with the 30-horsepower invaders. Some have thrown rocks or fired warning shots at them. Others are using political ammunition.

At Onota Lake, residents are circulating a petition to ban jet skis, saying they are tired of seeing water scooter riders play chicken with each other and with other water skiiers and boats. Fishermen, who say the riders come too close to them and won't heed boating regulations, have drafted their own petition.

At Pontoosuc Lake, citizens have sent noise and safety complaints to state Rep. Sherwood Guernsey, D-Williamstown, who said he may file legislation this year to curb jet skis.

In South County, the Stockbridge Bowl Association has asked the Stockbridge Selectmen to consider restrictions on jet skiiers. And Department of Environmental Management officials have received complaints about jet skis on Otis Reservoir and on some of the smaller DEM lakes. Pat Gamelli, a DEM supervisor at Tolland State Forest, said he wouldn't be surprised to see a proposal soon to have jet skis banned from all DEM lakes.

"People living on the lakes are going to have to get used to them, or ban them," he said.

Restrictions on water scooters have already been passed in some states, including Connecticut and New Hampshire, where they can be ridden only on the largest lakes. And on parts of Cape Cod, they cannot be launched legally.

Defenders of jet skis say restricting their use here would be unfair.

"The water skiiers would have to

8-7-88

Controversy
Continued on Page A5

Controversy erupts over jet skis

Continued from Page A3

be next," said Bonnie Rock, owner of KB&D Country Sports Center in Otis, which sells jet skis. "If you start banning [jet skis], you're going to open a Pandora's box, because people will start banning everything."

Are jet skis really any more of a nuisance than powerboats? Ask Peggy and Bill Ouilette, owners of Outdoor Marina near Onota Lake. They sell boats, but they can't stand jet skis.

"How can you have a pleasant evening or weekend at home when there is something out there making a racket hour after hour, not 50 yards from land?" Bill Ouilette asks. Jet skiiers, in his eyes, are mostly teenagers who are too reckless, or too drunk, to care about boating safety or courtesy.

But enthusiasts say they are getting a bad rap. On Blythewood Drive yesterday, where the Onota Lake petition originated, many families have more than one jet ski. One resident said he bought one for his son in reward for making the honor roll, and wouldn't have bought it if he didn't think it was safe, or if the noise bothered him more than motorboat noise.

Dealers say jet skiing is very much a family sport, and it is not at all limited to teenagers. Take Bob LaChapelle, 69, of Pittsfield, who said his Fazer is a pretty easy ride. Al Kazura, who runs U-Drive Boat Rentals on Pontoosuc, says he rented a Jet Ski to a 56-year-old man last week. And he adds that he has never seen an accident involving a Jet Ski.

But it is true that jet skiing is separated, to some extent, from boating. Berkshire County's power boat fraternities don't have jet skiiers as members, though Traversa says local jet skiiers will probably start their own group if their right to use area lakes is challenged.

Many jet skiiers are really dirt bike riders or snowmobilers looking for a summer alternative. And most local jet ski dealers are motorcycle shops, not boat stores. Motorcycle dealers like water scooters partly because they balance out the drop in motorcycle sales during the hottest months of the summer.

Al Anthony, owner of RPM's in Pittsfield, says jet skis are meeting the same resistance that motorcycles, four-wheelers, and snowmobiles met when they first became popular. And he says there are some simple ways enthusiasts can help make jet skiing as socially acceptable as those sports have become — a silencer for the Fazer costs about $25 installed, he says, and a safety course takes less than an hour.

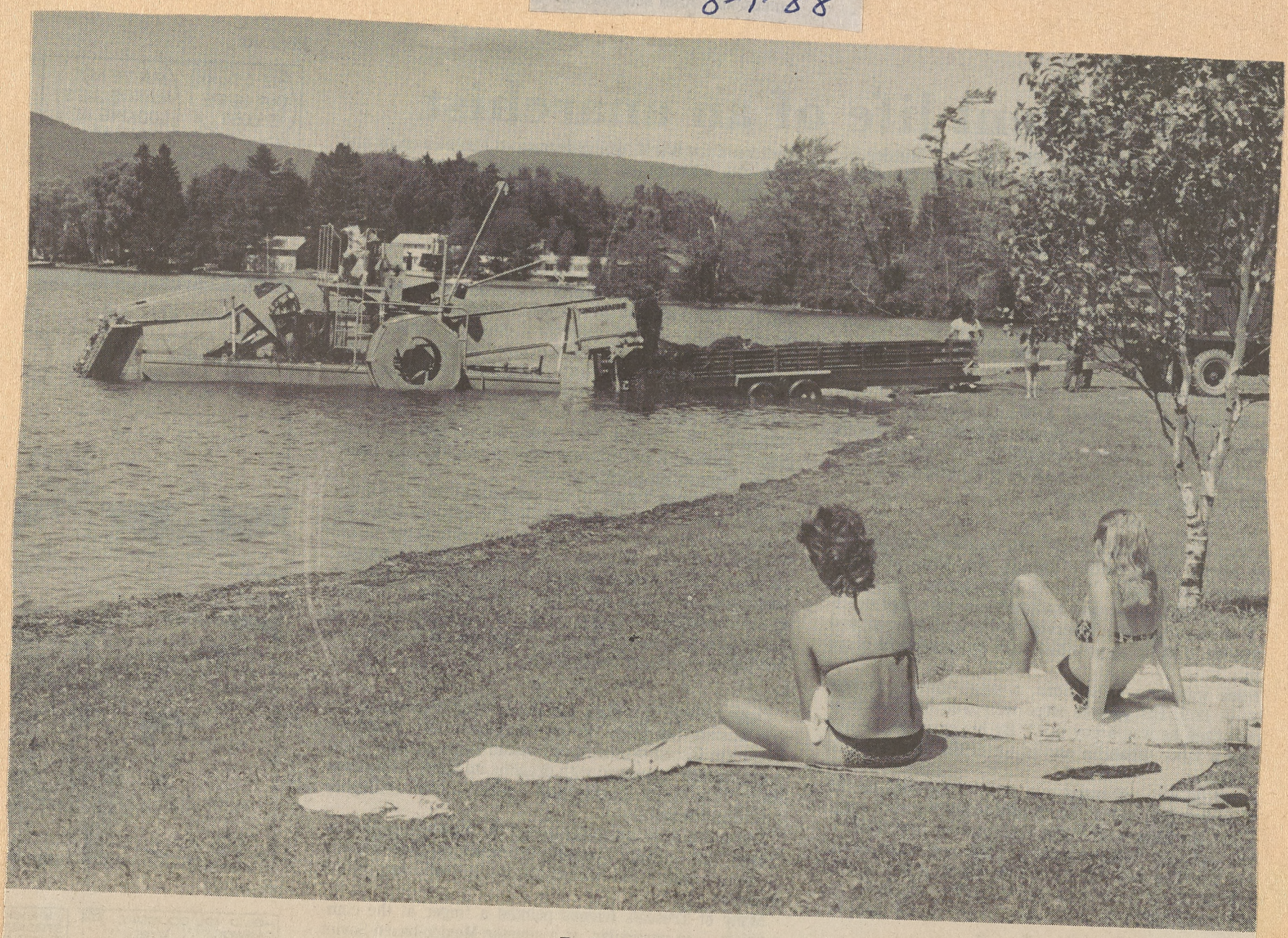
"I like the sport, and I want it to last," he said. "Some people are going to be prejudiced against it, and that's their problem. But we shouldn't be looking to give them reasons."

8-7-88

Jet skis dispute

The director of the state Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of Waterways has informed Selectmen and members of the Stockbridge Bowl Association Monday night that the town will not be able to prohibit jet skis on Stockbridge Bowl. Jet skis, which combine features of motorcycles and water skis, are registered motorcraft and residents of the state are entitled to use them on the waters of the commonwealth, including Stockbridge Bowl, said the director, **Alan McGroary**. He suggested several ways of regulating jet skis, such as limiting the hours of their use and restricting them to only one side of the lake. But **Don Deno**, a member of the bowl association, said that "no one would want it on their part of the pond."

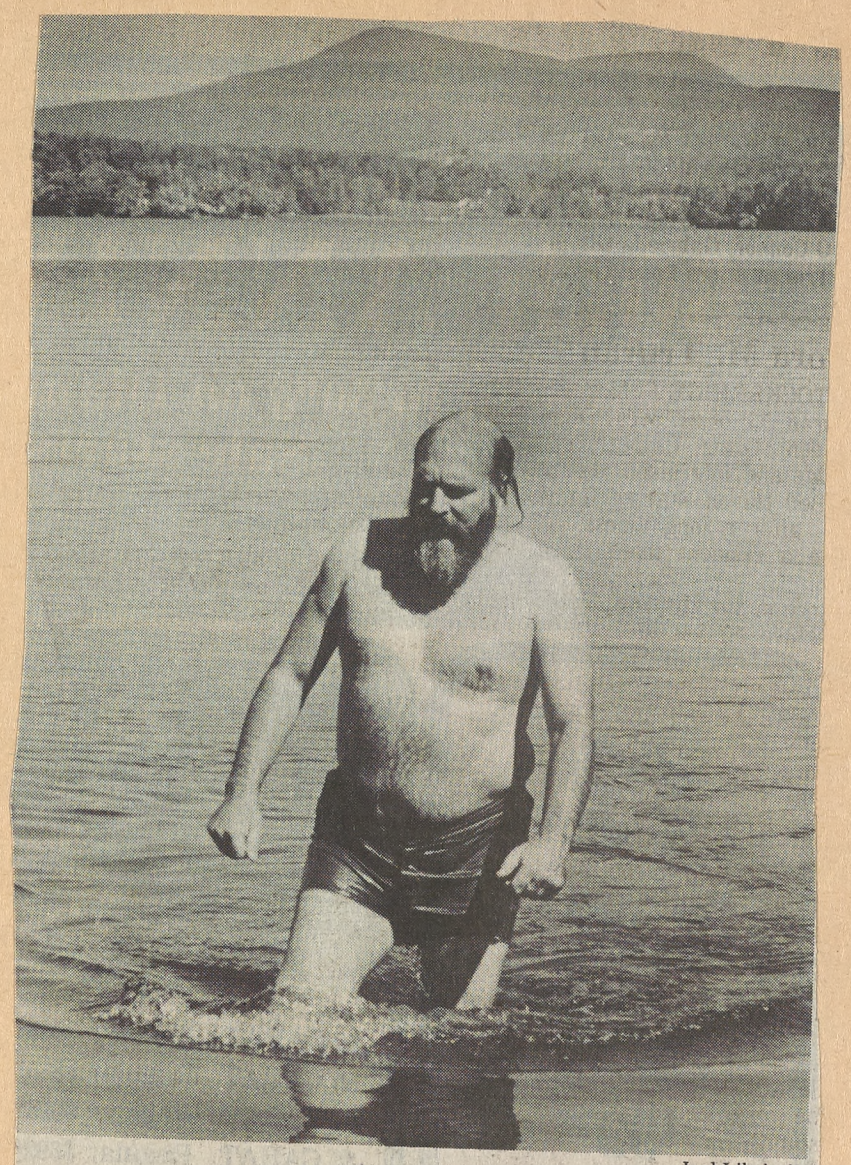
11-13-88



Lake Technology

Two bathers watch the latest form of diversion taking place these days at the shore of Onota Lake. It is one of the county's four weed harvesters divesting itself of its load.

8-20-88



Joel Librizzi

Out of the deep

Emerging from Pontoosuc Lake is Richard Moran of Hancock, who swims a half-mile every day before returning home from his job at Beloit Corp. in Dalton. 9-28-88

Leslie Noyes

Light play

Setting sun sparkles off Onota Lake in Pittsfield as David Cummings of Stephentown, N.Y., docks his boat at the public landing. 9-3-88

Man charged with molesting girls at lake

PITTSFIELD — A Pittsfield man pleaded not guilty in District Court yesterday to charges that he assaulted two girls, age 7 and 8, at the Onota Lake beach July 13.

Leon Guilbeault, 27, of 96 John St. was arrested Tuesday night by Pittsfield Police and charged with indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 and assault and battery.

He was ordered held on $2,500 bail, and his case was continued until July 28.

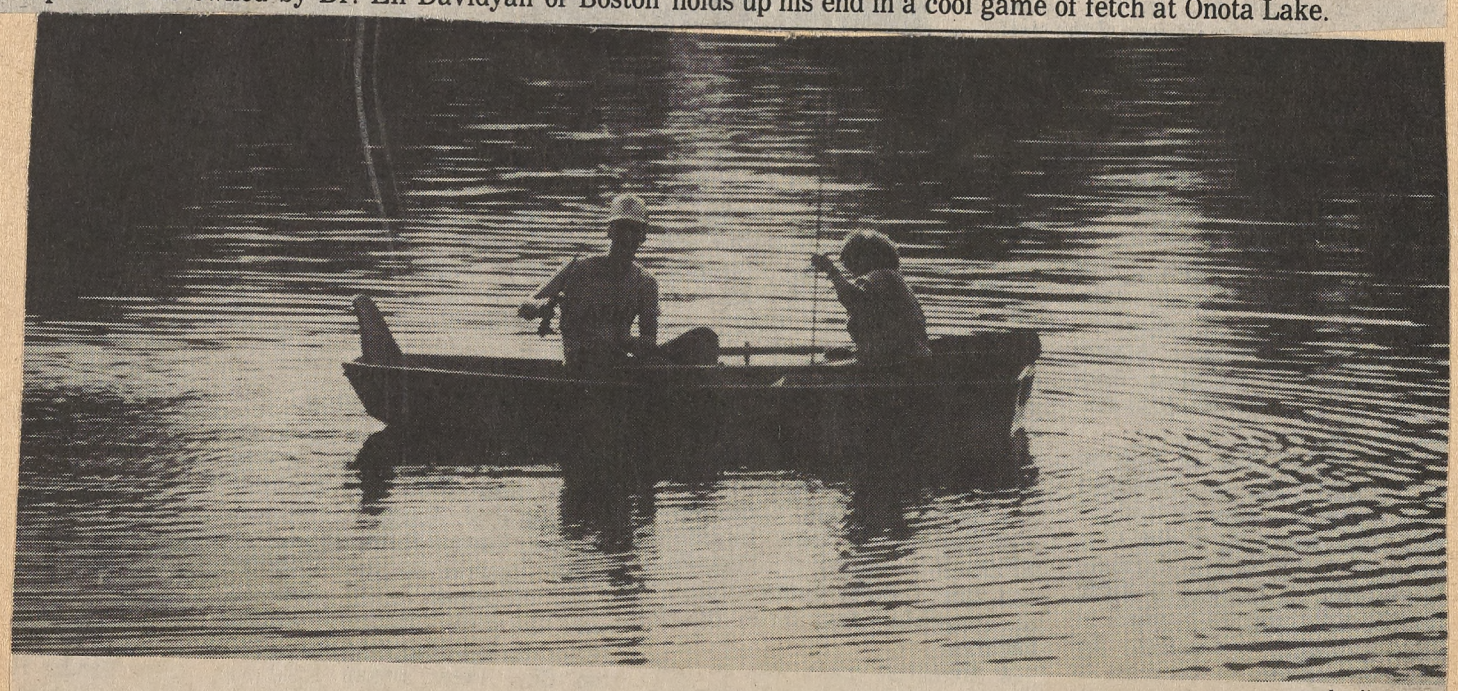
Detective Joseph P. Collias said the victims were children from Guilbeault's neighborhood. 7-21-88

Roger S. Hart

On the job

7-21-88

German shepherd Nets owned by Dr. Eli Davidyan of Boston holds up his end in a cool game of fetch at Onota Lake.



Leslie Noyes

Shining moment

9-19-88

Jon Byers and Lisa Prysgola, both of Pittsfield, enjoy fishing in the gleaming waters of Pontoosuc Lake.

Joel Librizzi

COOLEST PLACE IN TOWN yesterday was so-called Geritol Hill on Onota Lake in Pittsfield. Taking advantage of the breeze and the shade were Francis Mongeau and Edward Walger.

7/8/88

Joel Librizzi

ABOUT 150 PEOPLE — a 1988 attendance record, according to lifeguards — piled onto the beach at Onota Lake's Burbank Park for some wet relief from the heat yesterday. Those who arrived late had a long walk through a packed lot.

7-11-88

Beaches open today at Pittsfield's lakes

PITTSFIELD — The city's beaches, at Onota and Pontoosuc lakes, will open officially today for supervised swimming.

Lifeguards will be on duty daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The city will begin the summer's supervised recreational programs at 12 playgrounds Tuesday.

Playgrounds will be open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. through Aug. 26, according to Claudia Williamson, recreation supervisor.

Supervised programs will be conducted at the following playgrounds: Allen Heights, Common, Deming, Clapp, Lebanon, Pitt, Coolidge, Highland, Wilson, Morningside, Kirvin and West Memorial.

Two more playgrounds will be open this year than last.

Activities each week will include sports, music, nature study and drama. Each week, activities will relate to a specific theme.

Special events will be scheduled on alternate Fridays. These include Game Fest July 15 at Clapp Park; Carnival July 29 at Clapp Park; Arts Day Aug. 12 at Common Park, and Lake Day Aug. 26 at Pittsfield State Forest.

Sue J. Hornyak, a nutrition aide with the 4-H and Berkshire County Extension Service, will conduct a nutritional education program, using games and activities, at three playgrounds, Morningside, West Side and Wilson.

Joel Librizz

On the rocks

Ellen Hibbard, 14, and her sister, Anne Hibbard, 17, of Pittsfield beat yesterday's 88-degree heat in the refreshing waters of the spillway below Pontoosuc Lake.

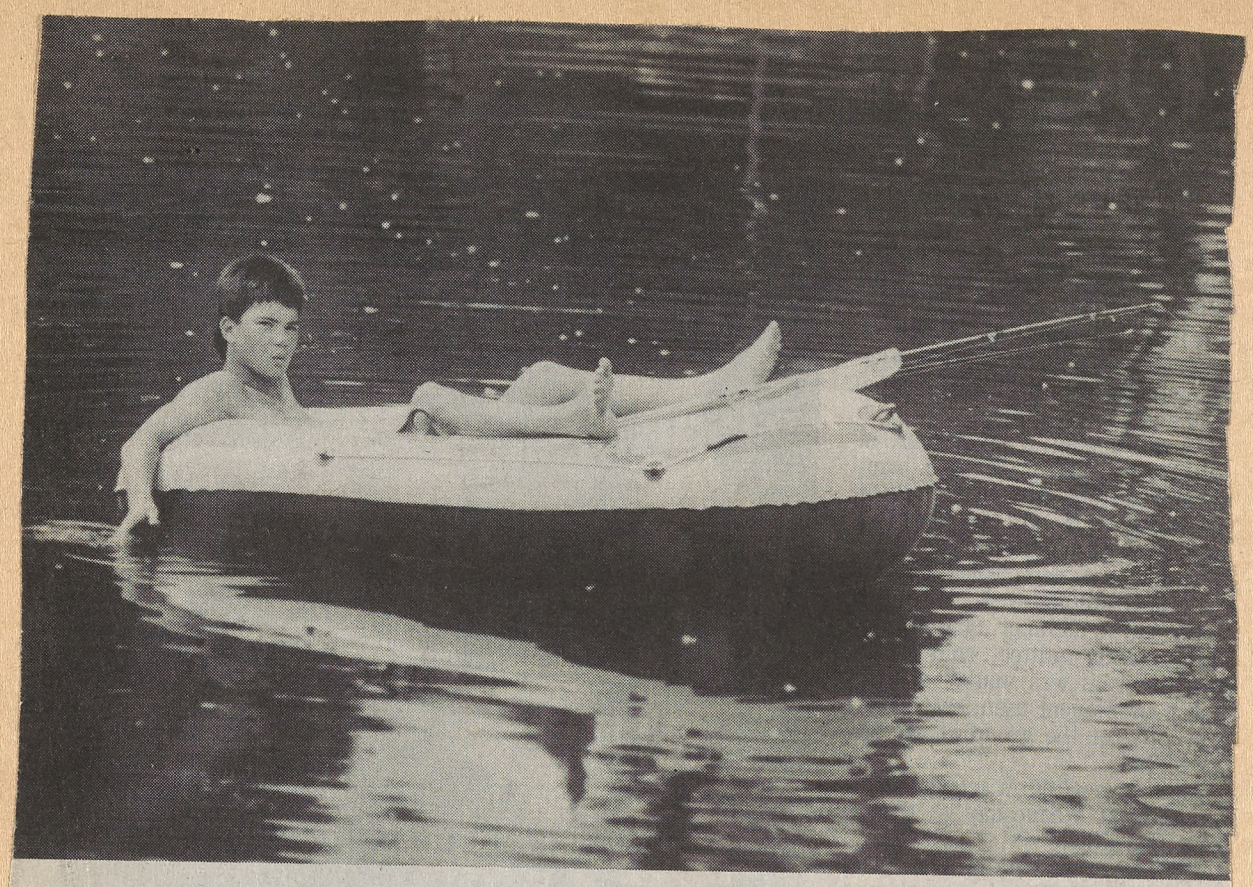
7/7/88

Susan Plageman

A little water music

The Berkshire Highlanders boarded two pontoon boats last evening to serenade listeners on Pontoosuc Lake.

7/7/88



Gae Elfenbein

Angler at ease

7/7/88

Khoa Vuon, 17, of 48 Memorial Drive, Pittsfield, floated and fished at the same time in Lake Pontoosuc yesterday morning, catching two bass and a trout with the poles propped at the end of his rubber craft.

Put some controls on jet skis

People who live near lakes, having accepted the noise of power boats, are not showing the same forbearance toward the newest lake-speed toy, the water scooter or "jet ski."

In Stockbridge, the Selectmen have been asked to restrict jet ski use on Stockbrige Bowl. Residents near Onota Lake are mounting a petition drive that would ban jet skis. Fishermen are doing the same thing.

And something *should* be done about these contraptions. Never mind the noise — a fast-moving jet ski with a drunk teenager at the controls is a disaster waiting to happen. Last year, there were 330 accidents reported to the Coast Guard that involved jet skis made by Kawasaki, the leading manufacturer. The Coast Guard estimates that that number is less than 10 percent of all non-fatal jet ski accidents.

Right now, a ban on jet skis would be too draconian. What would make sense are restrictions and regulations on the machines' use. Nine states have already taken some action. Massachusetts is not among them.

First and foremost, a minimum age for operation should be set. Sixteen would be a logical age. Second, operators should go through a safety course and become licensed. This needn't be an extensive process, but people riding scooters should first demonstrate an awareness of boating rules and courtesies and an understanding of how to drive the things safely.

The catch to all this is enforcement. It's tough for authorities to catch offenders on vehicles like snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. Jet skis would be no different, though, of course, it's hard to drive a jet ski off into the woods.

As it stands now, the machines aren't making anyone but their users happy. A few minor regulations could help smooth the waters. If jet skiers show no interest in more courteous behavior, however, the next step would be a ban on these noisy nuisances.

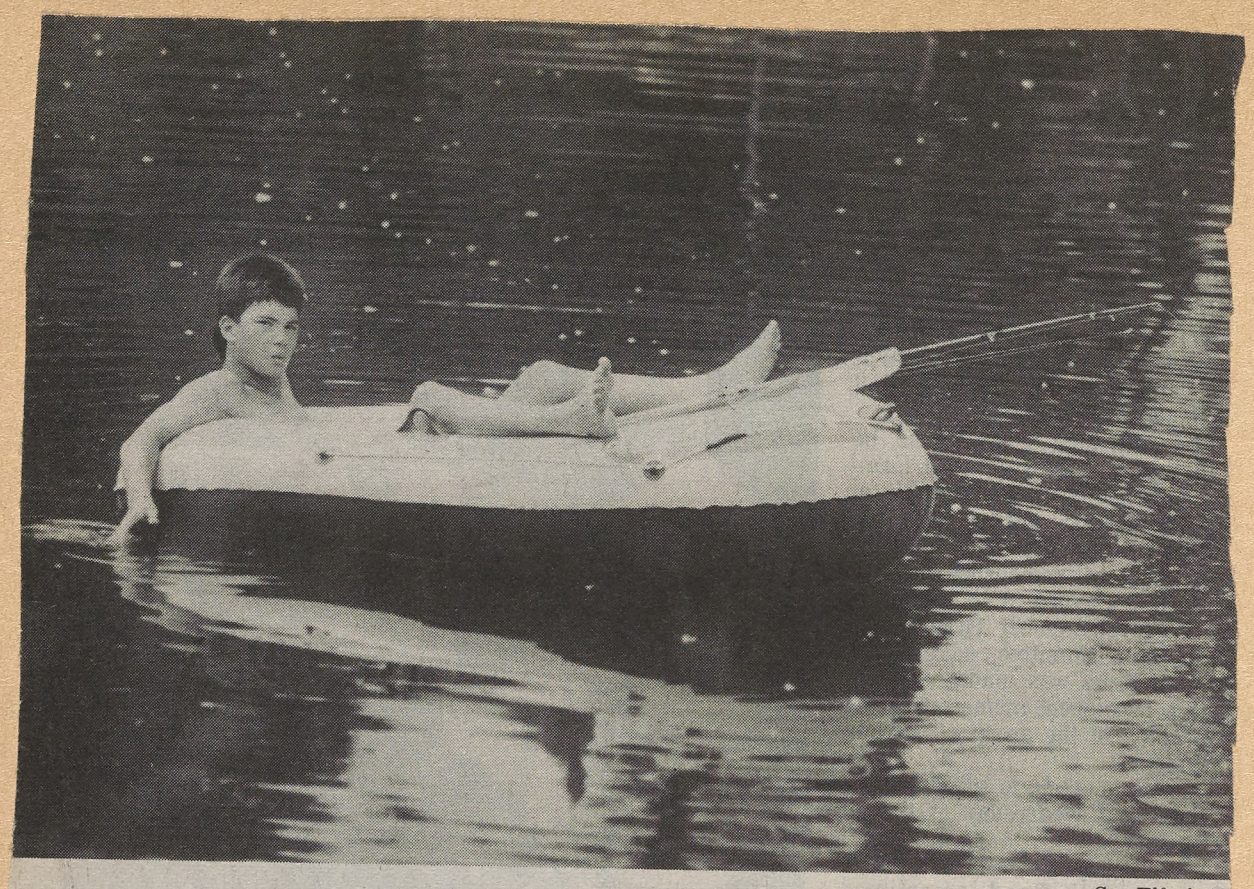
8-9-88

Leslie Noyes

At day's end

8-6-88

Thierry Lamouliatte, a French national working in Berkshire County, enjoys the sunset at Onota Lake.



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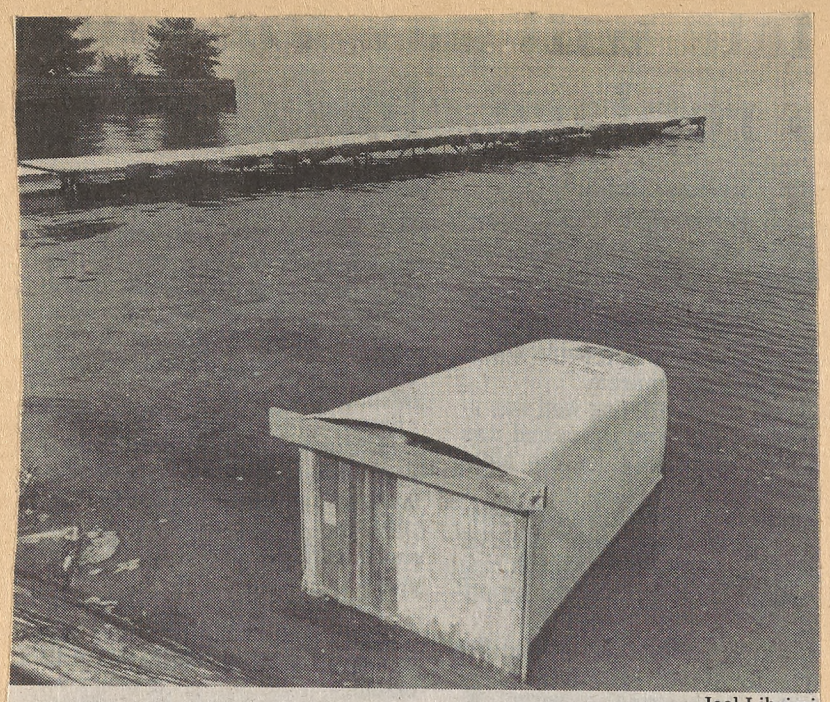


Joel Librizzi

VANDALISM at Pontoosuc Lake left portable outhouse on its side in the water yesterday.

Trashing of outhouse angers lake resident

By Ellen G. Lahr
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Yesterday morning a man who lives on Pontoosuc Lake woke up, looked out his kitchen window and saw a portable outhouse on its side in the water.

"I'm infuriated," he told The Eagle, asking that his name not be used. "I have cancer and heart trouble and I depend on swimming to keep my health up. But I wouldn't dare go swimming today."

The outhouse had been placed on the property of the U-Drive Boat Rental business last Friday, said the neighbor. When it appeared, he became concerned about its close proximity to the water, and called the city's Health Department. The Health Department referred him to the building inspector, and the building inspector said he would look into it.

On Tuesday, the outhouse was still standing. Apparently overnight someone tossed it into the lake, the neighbor guessed.

Pittsfield police said they knew nothing about the incident. Capt. Walter M. Boyer said a portable outhouse in the lake is not under the Police Department's jurisdiction.

Louis A. Bolduc, the city's health commissioner, said he was not aware of the portable outhouse and that permits are not required for them. He said someone else in the Health Department might have referred calls on the matter to the building inspector.

"I'll look into it in the morning," said Bolduc, adding that he understood the man's concern about the outhouse being so close to the water.

Robert J. Pomeroy Jr., the city's building commissioner, could not be reached yesterday, nor could the owner of the boat rental business.

The neighbor said the boat rental business rented the outhouse from Berkshire-Pittsfield Septic Tank Cleaning Service. The company came and removed the outhouse from the lake yesterday, and returned later with a replacement.

Hugh Quirk, who owns Quirk's Berkshire Marine on North Street and leases the property to the boat rental business, said he had heard of a number of vandalism incidents at the lake Tuesday night and early Wednesday.

8-4-88

Hazards at Onota Lake

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Weird things are happenig on Onota Lake this summer. If an Eagle report is to be believed, a motor boat traveling in a fog at 1 a.m. collided with a tree while the boat was cruising at 25 mph. At that speed, in a fog at midnight the boat's driver had to be drunk, coked out or crazy.

There are a lot of crazies on the lake this summer. Prominent among them are jet skiers whose pleasure seems to be to make as loud a racket as possible, thus ruining the pleasure of everyone else on the lake. There are daredevils who not only cut across each other's wakes, but across the wakes of motor boats towing water skiers. The lake is not a safe place to be. One of the crazies has already run into a tree. It won't be long before a fatal collision occurs. Then, perhaps controls will be enacted and enforced.

Until that time those of us who love the lake for its peace and quiet and for the opportunity it offers for swimming, canoeing, fishing, sailing and recreating will continue to seethe inwardly as the jet skiers, in the words of a recent letter-to-the-editor headline, take over the lake.

If the rights of the majority of the users of our lakes are not enforced against the mindless incursions of a handful of jet skiers and hopped-up power boat operators there may be a mission here for the Guardian Angels. The Angels are a vigilante group who are helping New Yorkers regain some of the neighborhoods that have been taken over by crack dealers. We have already lost Onota Lake to the jet skiers and the souped-up power boat. It is time to win it back.

JOHN H. RICE

Pittsfield 8-6-88

Table for Eight

Cooled by breezes off Pontoosuc Lake, a family enjoyed a picnic yesterday at a table alongside the channel.

8-6-88

Where To Be

Berkshire lakes and ponds have been big draws during this week's blazing heat. Yesterday, with the temperature in the upper 80s, a couple on the bank watched a cooling caper in Pontoosuc Lake.

8-6-88

Joel Librizzi

Onota Lake sit-in

8-6-88

Keeping cool are Susan Crawford, Susan Johnston, Barbara Hanger, Sherry Clairmont, Theresa Latini, Valerie Persip and Darlene DelSoldato.

Consultant advises Pontoosuc Lake be lowered 8 feet

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A county consultant has recommended that Pontoosuc Lake be lowered 8 feet each fall to control weed growth.

Meeting yesterday with the County Commission, Robin D. Zimmer, manager of aquatic sciences for International Technology Corp. of Edison, N.J., said his firm is backing the drawdown over other more expensive methods of controlling weeds.

The recommendation is contained in a preliminary draft report of a $25,000 water-level management study made available to the commission and other parties.

Along with recommendations for weed control, the study will describe the effects of drawdowns on plants and wildlife. It is one phase of the state-subsidized Clean Lakes Program at Pontoosuc. A final draft of the report is expected to be completed within the next two weeks.

Meeting scheduled

The commission has scheduled a meeting with the Pittsfield and Lanesboro conservation boards for Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the report. The lake borders both communities.

The county has managed Pontoosuc Lake since 1969. Beginning in October, it lowers the water level primarily for spring flood control. The annual drawdowns have dropped the lake an average of 3½ feet below the top of the Hancock Road dam.

Zimmer said the 8-foot drawdown would expose 80 percent of the bothersome plant life without compromising the dam structure. The exposure freezes the weeds and kills them. In terms of the impact on wildlife and wetlands, he said the advantages of such a drawdown outweigh the disadvantages.

Specifically, Zimmer said, the drawdown would bring predator fish and their prey closer together, which may enhance game fishing. Though the oxygen content of the diminished lake is an "important factor," he said water has a greater capacity for oxygen during the colder months, when the drop takes place.

Zimmer said the muskrat population on the fringe of the lake would probably suffer the most from the drawdown. However, the population should recover in time, he said, because the muskrat reproduces quickly and would adapt itself to the changing environment.

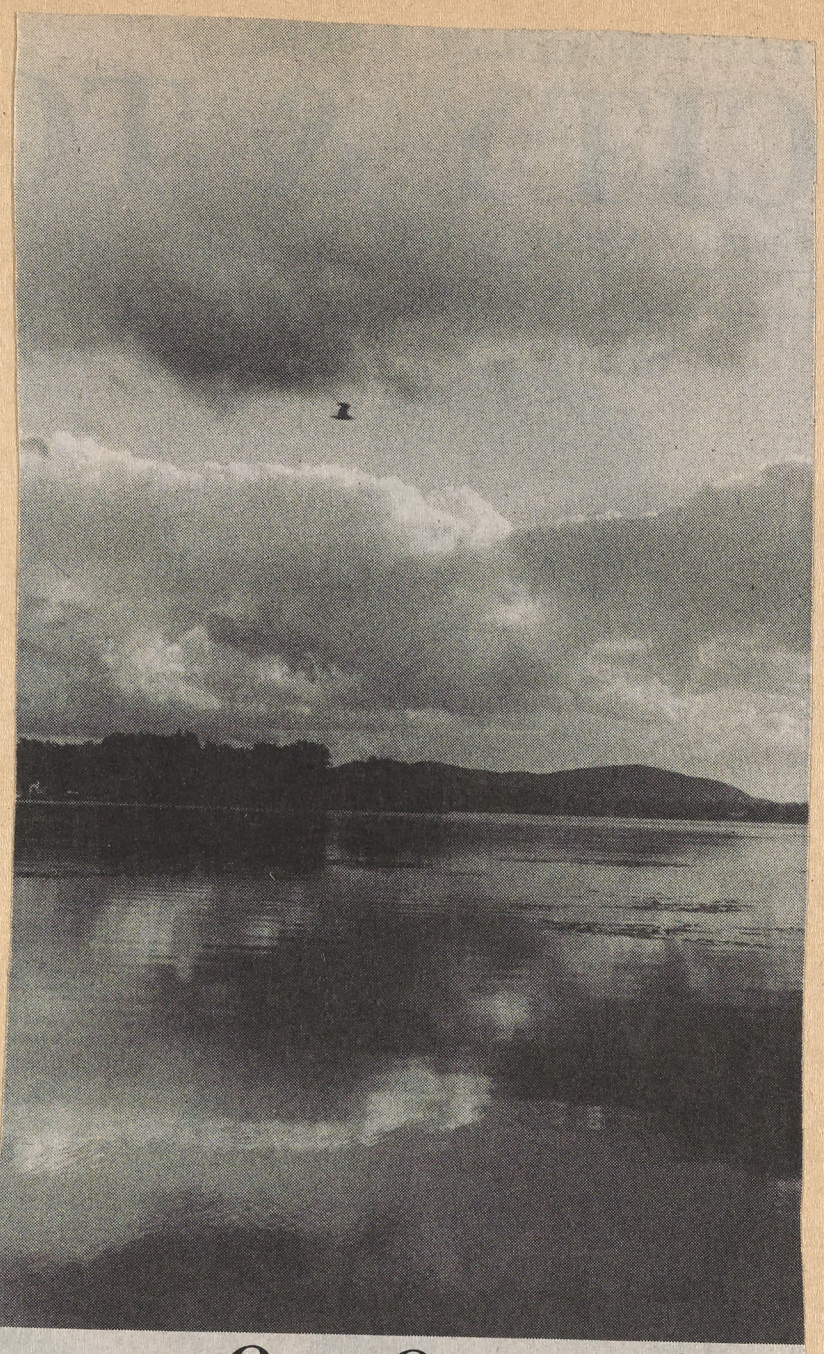
According to Zimmer, the timing of the drawdown is critical in the war against weeds. He recommended a starting date "as soon as possible" after Labor Day, several weeks before the usual date. The replenishment of the lake would begin in April, as it does now, with the spring runoff.

Zimmer described the drawdown as a "short-term, stop-gap kind of management tool" for controlling weeds. The long-range solution, he said, will be to reduce the nitrates and phosphates that flow into the lake and nourish the weeds.

Commissioner Peter F. Menard, who has taken an active role in the Clean Lakes Program, said "two factions" exist on the issue of drawdowns — those who favor them and those who don't.

Of the recommendation, he said, "The no-drawdown faction is not going to be happy no matter what."

9-7-88

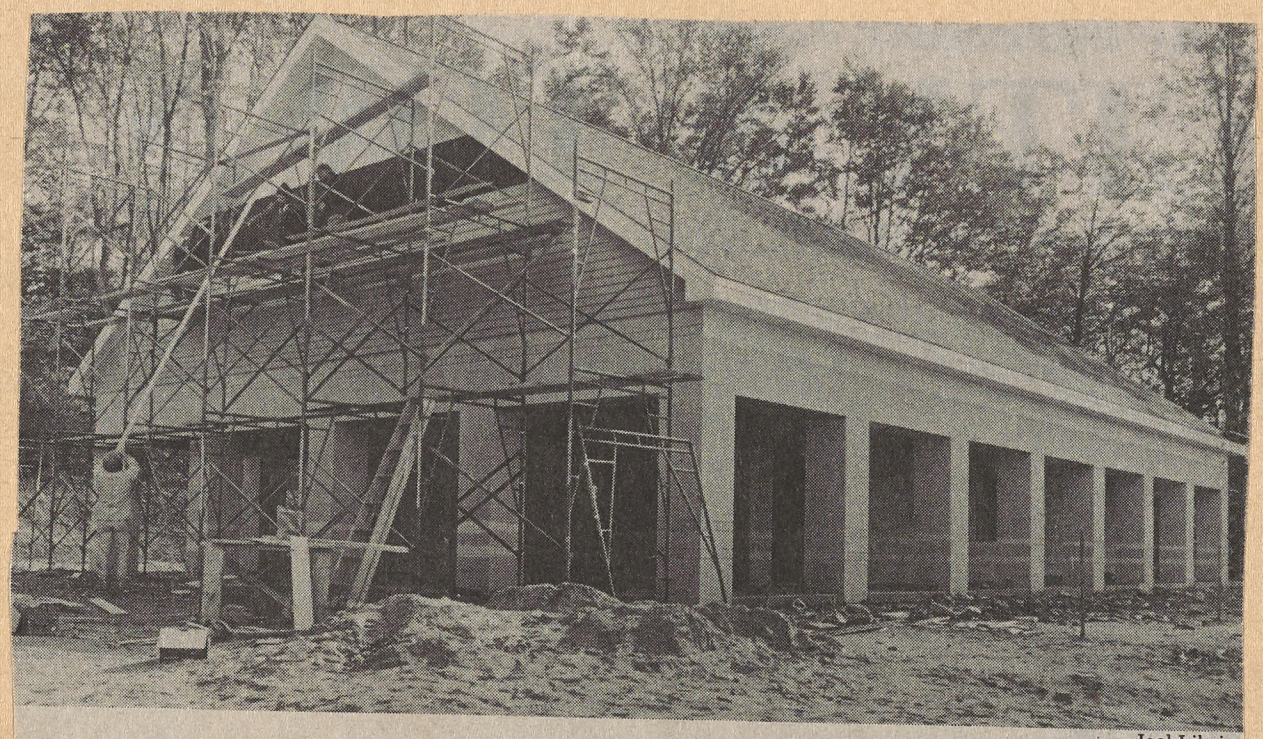


Leslie Noyes

Over Onota

Above the glistening, cloud-reflecting waters of Onota Lake soars a lone seagull. Why it is here in the Berkshires, so far from the sea, is a mystery.

10-6-88

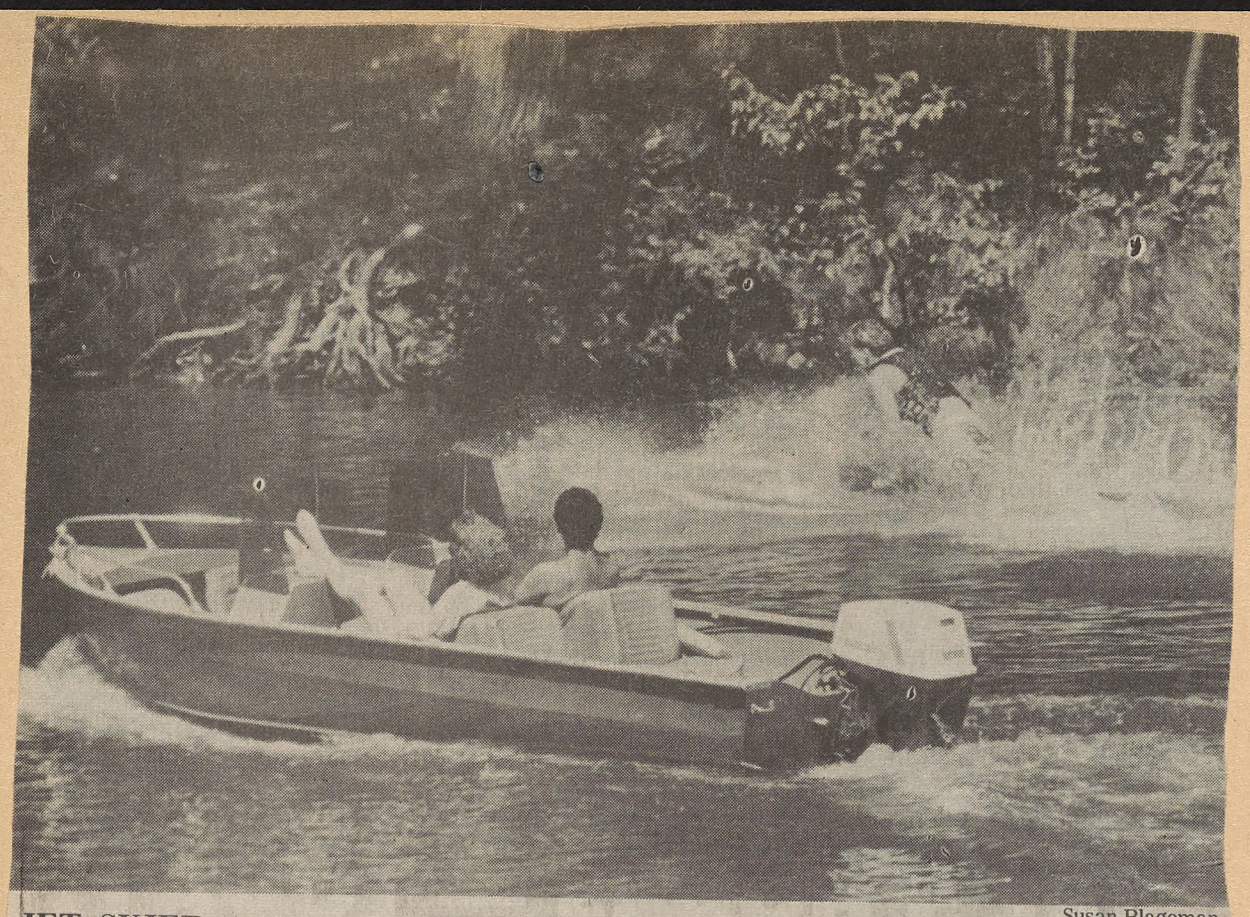


Joel Librizz

Nearing completion

10-12-88

The Burbank Park Beach House at Onota Lake in Pittsfield is expected to be finished by Nov. 1. Contractor for the project is Joseph Francese Inc. There are 20 picnic tables and a play area for kids next to the building.



Susan Plageman

JET SKIER and outboard motorboat enthusiasts skim along the Pontoosuc Lake inlet in Pittsfield.

Armada of boats filling lakes

Continued from Page A1

simply is no fun, Lipez said.

Lee Stanfield, who also lives on Narragansett Avenue, has strategically placed a couple of railroad ties to protect her beach. "Those big boats make such waves, they're going to eat the shore away," she said. "The waves are like the ocean."

On Onota Lake, several residents said the number of boaters hasn't drastically increased since last summer. However, they said, Onota, which is long and thin in shape compared to Pontoosuc's more rounded form, can accommodate more speed demons on its straightaways.

Those who sell and rent boats agree that the waters are more crowded just about everywhere. And those who crowd the lakes are moving faster than before.

"Everybody wants to go fast," said Frieda Maces, co-owner of Onota Boat Livery, where 60 boats are moored. "We could moor a lot more — we've always had waiting lists."

Larger, more powerful

Maces said she's noticed that not only are more people purchasing boats, but those who do are choosing larger, more powerful models.

"Boat sales are up this year 10, maybe 15 percent," she said. "It's been a good year. People are buying bigger boats — 17-footers — that are faster, with bigger motors."

Maces said she now stocks more big boats than in the past, but continues to rent only "small fishing boats," in the interest of safety.

At Frank's Berkshire Marine, now the county's largest boating store at its new South Street headquarters, owner Anthony Crea agreed that business is up significantly — 30 percent — this year. He disagreed, however, with his daughter Rosie Phelps, who said the increase over last year was a full 80 percent.

"We sell about 150 power boats in a year," Crea said. "We've been on the increase for the last five or six years."

On the upgrade

Crea attributed the increase to the improved economy, with more people having more money to spend, and the lower gasoline prices. Many regular customers keep coming back to upgrade their vehicles, he added.

"People like to do more every year," he said.

Hugh Quirk, an owner of Quirk's Marine at 1249 North St., said his business doubled from 1986 to 1987, and tripled from last summer to now. "That's a six-times increase," he marvelled. Meanwhile, the number of boats he stores during the winter months has doubled in a year.

However, Quirk said, "two-thirds of what we sell goes outside the county."

On the water — Quirk owns land on Pontoosuc Lake — he has noticed an increase in traffic. This he attributes in part to improved water quality. The weed harvesting program, he said, has been a tremendous success.

"They've saved that lake," he said. "It's cleaner than it was 30 years ago."

'They've saved Pontoosuc Lake. It's cleaner than it was 30 years ago.'

— Hugh Quirk

Carol Siegel, who spends the summers with her family in a house on Ridge Avenue, said the lake has been busier this year than she ever remembers seeing it. The combination of the weed-free water and sweltering nights earlier this summer has drawn people to the lake, she said.

Siegel's 21-year-old daughter Laura, a water-skier, said she worries about her safety when she's at the end of her line. "I think it's very dangerous," she said, adding that unlike traffic on land, water-top vehicles move every which way, with little rhyme or reason.

"We haven't had any problem — nobody's gotten hurt or anything," she said, "but it's scary."

Observing the rules

For the most part, boaters had nothing but nice things to say about other boaters. Driving a boat is simple, they said, and very few people have trouble with the rules of the water. And most, they said, observe the 45-mile-per-hour speed limit.

"Compared to automobile drivers," said Crea, "boat drivers are better people."

The Pittsfield Police Department has boats on both lakes, and police officers occasionally patrol the waters to ensure that there are no violators of the speed limit, which was set last Labor Day.

But the brunt of enforcement duties, according to Police Captain Walter M. Boyer, befall the state Division of Natural Resources law enforcement division.

According to Boyer, the state forces are on one or both lakes every day.

"I know they're up there because I see them up there all the time," he said.

But some residents disputed that. "There is no enforcement whatsoever," Lipez said.

Laura Siegel said the patrols are out only at odd hours, when the lake isn't being heavily used. "You never see them on weekends," she said.

8-21-88

Armada packs area lakes

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — A robust economy, stable gas prices and this summer's especially hot, sunny weather have combined to create an armada of boaters who pack county lakes with craft that are growing increasingly sophisticated, streamlined and fast. Onota and Pontoosuc lakes in Pittsfield have become especially congested on recent weekends.

Most boaters said the conditions haven't yet become crowded enough to be termed dangerous, but some residents with lake-view homes are complaining about excessive noise and speeding vehicles whose waves wash away their precious sandy beaches.

One water-skier said the number of craft make her sport more dangerous, since the skier herself has no control over where the boat goes.

Sailing and canoeing have become almost a thing of the past, said many lakeside residents who have put the old motorless vessels away. They cite the nuisance of the jet skis and the large waves thrown by the more powerful motorized craft as the reason.

Residents who live around Onota Lake have already begun a petition drive to ban the jet-propelled vehicles, also known as jet skis (after one of the more popular brand names). Pontoosuc Lake abutters are equally disturbed by the noisy, motorcyclelike craft, which carry one or two passengers, and move as quickly as boats.

"I think we have to compromise about these things," said Richard Lipez of 19 Profile St. in Lanesboro. "Power boats should be allowed, but jet skis are well beyond the bounds of reason. They sound like chain saws."

Madeleine Hospot, who lives on Narragansett Avenue, said the jet skiers should pay the $25 or so for a silencer "if they want to be accepted."

She and her family own a motorboat and are avid water-skiers. So far, she said, "I wouldn't say it's overcrowded."

Lipez, in fact, has not been on the lake in his canoe all year, mostly because of the noisy jet skis. But, he added, the large and swift power boats "that should be on Lake Michigan" are also a deterrent to those who paddle for pleasure. Fighting the boats' wakes to make progress

8-21-88

Armada of boats
Continued on Page A6

Susan Plageman

EAGER boaters prepare to cast off at the increasingly crowded Onota Lake ramp in Pittsfield.

147.

Onota dam in poor shape: replacement cost $637,000

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The Onota Lake dam should be replaced, according to an evaluation of the structure by O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc. of Pittsfield. Cost for replacement is estimated at $637,000.

The report says that replacement would be cheaper than strengthening the existing dam, work that is estimated at $705,000.

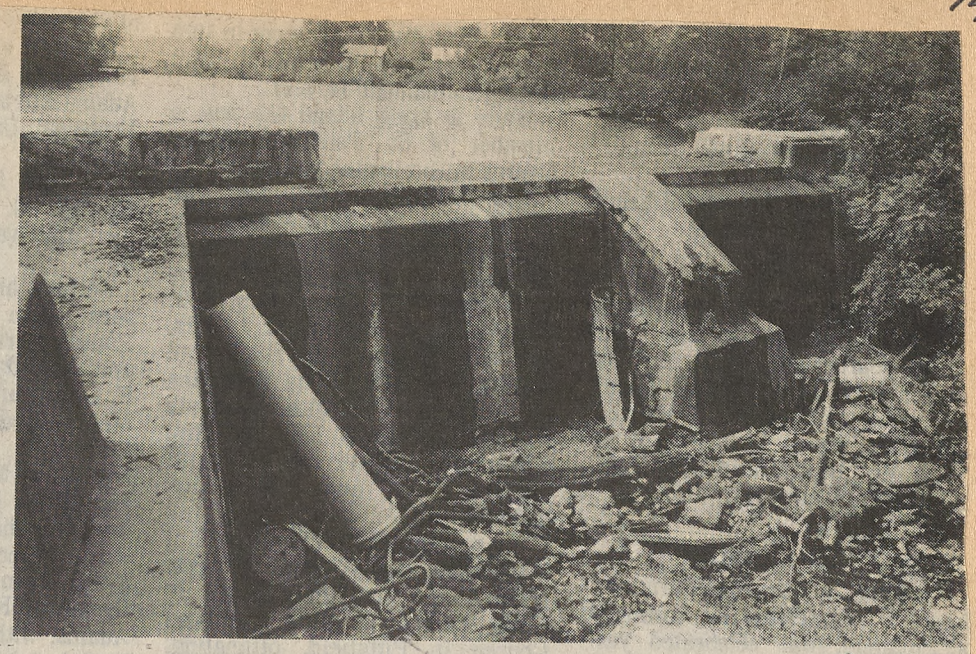
The Office of Dam Safety of the Department of Environmental Management ordered the study, which was carried out by the Conservation Commission. The commission has jurisdiction for the dam, which is located just off Peck's Road, east of Lakeway Drive.

James J. Riddle, commission chairman and acting city engineer, informed the Office of Dam Safety that he would begin immediately to draw down the water level to 6 inches below the dam spillway to allow further inspection and monitoring of the dam.

An evaluaton of the dam outlines the structure's major faults. They include: almost complete erosion of the internal joint mortar, a severely weathered foundation, maximum spillway capacity of about 6 percent of a potential maximum flood, failure to meet stability criteria and poor condition of canal embankment.

The difference in cost, the report says, is mostly due to the cost of grouting, or filling of cracks, that would be required on the dam and

Onota dam
Continued on Page B3



Steve Moore

ONOTA DAM, shown here, would cost more to repair than to replace, say consultants.

10-1-88

Onota dam

Continued from Page B1

its foundation if it were to be repaired. That portion of the work, involving 4,500 cubic feet of grout, would cost $225,000. There would be an additional 300 cubic yards of concrete required, at a cost of $105,000.

For a replacement dam, on the other hand, 650 cubic yards of concrete would be needed, but no grout. The estimated price comes to $227,500.

The prices to not include design engineering or a project overseer.

The O'Brien & Gere report follows a preliminary report made in 1986 by C.T. Male Associates that said the dam was too small to handle a large flood and was in poor shape. If there were a flood, the 1986 report said, occupants of a dozen buildings downstream would have to be evacuated.

Whether the dam is replaced or repaired, the report suggests, a temporary cofferdam at the Lakeway Drive bridge would be the best way to drain the immediate area of the dam without draining the entire lake.

Among the recommendations of the report is one that earth in the present canal embankment be used to fill the canal, thereby relieving the city of responsibility for maintenance and liability for both.

The report concludes by saying that the city should complete its emergency action plan in the time before repair or replacement begins.

10-1-88

Joel Librizzi

October anglers

Gregory Hiner and children Whitney, 7, and Jostin, 3, demonstrated yesterday at Onota Lake that the open-water fishing season isn't over yet.

10/17/88

Leslie Noyes

THE NEXT DAY water skier Anthony J. Crea of Pittsfield worked out on Pontoosuc Lake, snowy lawns as a backdrop.

10/4/88

Joel Librizzi

Hanging in there

10/11/88

Despite chilly water, it seems that the wind-surfing season on Onota Lake hasn't ended yet. This surfer, wearing a wet suit, took advantage of yesterday's brisk winds to get in some fast cruising.

Prescription for safe lakes: Enforce existing boating laws

PITTSFIELD — Boaters, fishermen and lake dwellers told city officials that stricter enforcement of boating laws, not the creation of new laws, would make Onota and Pontoosuc lakes safer places.

"There isn't a problem mentioned tonight that isn't covered in the laws — speeding, drinking, jet skis, children and distances — it's all here. We just don't have the people to enforce the laws," said Anthony Crea, owner of Frank's Berkshire Marine on Tyler Street, tossing the regulations on the conference table.

More than 40 persons crammed Springside House for a 45-minute hearing Monday sponsored by the Parks and Conservation commissions on ways to improve water safety at the lakes. While residents disagreed over whether jet skis should be allowed, all 15 speakers said better enforcement would curb the problems of speeding power boats and noisy jet skis that plagued lakes this summer.

Who should enforce?

Parks Commission Chairman Clifford J. Nilan said the city solicitor is investigating whether city police, civil defense officers or the Conservation Commission should enforce boating regulations at the two lakes.

The first speaker, Wayne Champagne, read a list of suggested regulations, such as prohibiting the use of alcohol while operating a boat, setting a maximum speed of 45 miles per hour and rotating reduced speed limits of 15 miles per hour on alternate days between the two lakes.

"That way, on any given day, there will be a place for the jet skiers and large power boats and a place for floating, fishing and other slower-paced water sports," Champagne suggested.

Rules misunderstood

Several boaters countered that existing law sets 45 mph as the maximum speed on lakes and the law needs to be enforced. Reducing speeds to 15 miles an hour would make water skiing impossible because speeds of about 36 miles an hour are necessary, boaters said.

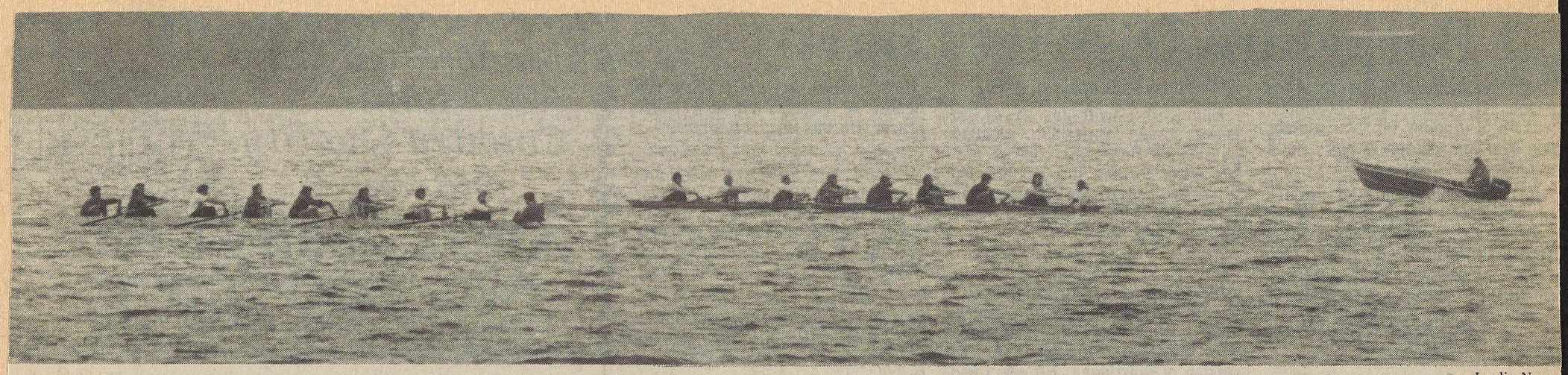
"A lot of people just don't understand the boating rules," said Robert J. Reagan of Narragansett Avenue.

John Rice of West Street said the noise from jet skis is especially irritating and disrupts the peace. He suggested banning jet skis, while another resident proposed setting decibel levels and requiring jet skiers to use mufflers to keep the noise under control.

Robert E. Cartier of Waubeek Road on Pontoosuc Lake said residents of Lake George in New York created a volunteer patrol to watch lake waters and even test jet ski noise with a decibel reader.

Red Cross swimming instructor Mary Macy said she was especially troubled by boats entering swimming areas and other residents expressed concern about swimmers, especially at Pontoosuc Lake, swimming in the boat channel.

The Parks and Conservation commissions plan to hold more hearings through the fall and winter to develop guidelines that can be implemented next summer.



Leslie Noyes

Stroke, stroke, stroke

Two 8-oared shells rowed by Williams College women's crew members set out on Onota Lake yesterday.

10/19/88

10/30/88

VIKING SHIP sailed last night on Pontoosuc Lake for the new world of Mrs. Murphy's Chowder House on the opposite shore. Kenneth Hassan of Lanesboro and friends added 50 feet plus cardboard to a pontoon boat to create Halloween craft. Leslie Noyes

Work and play in the snow

The subzero cold wave and subsequent half-foot snowfall this week meant work for some people and play for others. Above, George Wilcox sweeps one of the dozens of snow-covered cars at Car Country yesterday on Center Street, Pittsfield. At right, the city's former administrative services director, Lawrence Grizey, fishes through 4 inches of ice on Pontoosuc Lake. In background is another former city employee, Kenneth Baker.

12/15/88

Photos by Joel Librizzi

Joel Librizzi

OUT OF PONTOOSUC LAKE came this 15-pound, 7-ounce tiger muskie, caught through the ice by Carl Winters, right, assisted by his fishing partner, Michael Alfonso. The fish is the largest tiger muskie caught this year in the state.

Big tiger muskie may be 'world record'

PITTSFIELD — Carl Winters of Pittsfield caught a whale of a tiger muskie yesterday through the ice at Pontoosuc Lake. But, ironically, while the 15-pound, 7-ounce fish may turn out to be a world record of sorts and is the odds-on favorite to be the largest tiger muskie caught in Massachusetts this year, it is not a state record.

The paradox exists because the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Haywood, Wisc., has not been keeping records for ice fishing very long. Its standing world record for a tiger muskie is 15 pounds, 1 ounce, caught in March of 1987 by Joseph Schneider of Adams, also in Pontoosuc Lake.

However, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has been keeping records longer, both for ice fishing and open water. The state record is 19 pounds, 4 ounces, set at Worcester's Lake Quinsigamond in the winter of 1987.

Daniel A. McGuiness, who is the division's sports fishing awards coordinator, said that, unlike the Fishing Hall of Fame, the state does not differentiate between ice and open water fishing.

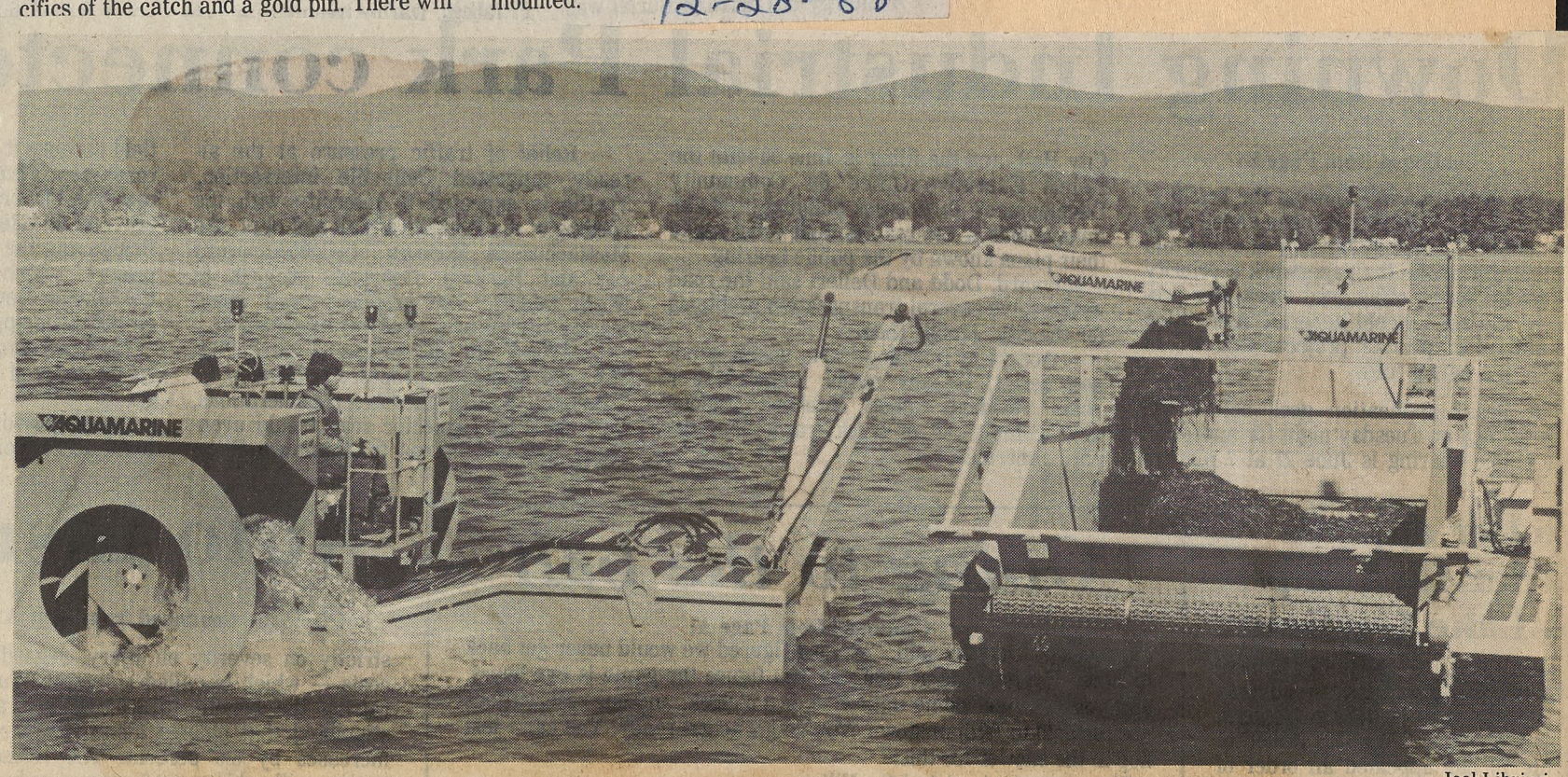
McGuiness said that Winters' muskie is the only one to qualify for recognition in Massachusetts this year. The qualifying weight is 10 pounds for tiger muskie, a sterile hybrid introduced to lakes and ponds for sport fishing and as a natural means to control small "trash" fish. It is a cross of the northern pike and the muskellunge.

For catching a tiger muskie larger than 10 pounds, Winters will receive a bronze pin from the division. If, as expected with four days to go in 1988, the fish is the largest caught this year, he also will be awarded a plaque with a brass plate bearing the specifics of the catch and a gold pin. There will be a replica of the gold pin on the plaque as well, McGuiness said.

Winters was fishing with Michael Alfonso of 1209 North Street, who assisted him in landing the muskie. He was using a tip-up and a live Arkansas shiner. The muskie was checked by Charles Maces at Onota Boat Livery on Peck's Road.

Winters, who lives at 83 Thomas Island Road, said he would have the predator mounted.

12-28-88



Joel Librizzi

6/9/88

Aquatic lawn mower

The voyage of the Pontoosuc Lake weed harvester, shown here on the job yesterday, is a sure sign summer is nearly here.

Joel Librizzi

OUT OF PONTOOSUC LAKE came this 15-pound, 7-ounce tiger muskie, caught through the ice by Carl Winters, right, assisted by his fishing partner, Michael Alfonso. The fish is the largest tiger muskie caught this year in the state.

Big tiger muskie may be 'world record'

PITTSFIELD — Carl Winters of Pittsfield caught a whale of a tiger muskie yesterday through the ice at Pontoosuc Lake. But, ironically, while the 15-pound, 7-ounce fish may turn out to be a world record of sorts and is the odds-on favorite to be the largest tiger muskie caught in Massachusetts this year, it is not a state record.

The paradox exists because the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Haywood, Wisc., has not been keeping records for ice fishing very long. Its standing world record for a tiger muskie is 15 pounds, 1 ounce, caught in March of 1987 by Joseph Schneider of Adams, also in Pontoosuc Lake.

However, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has been keeping records longer, both for ice fishing and open water. The state record is 19 pounds, 4 ounces, set at Worcester's Lake Quinsigamond in the winter of 1987.

Daniel A. McGuiness, who is the division's sports fishing awards coordinator, said that, unlike the Fishing Hall of Fame, the state does not differentiate between ice and open water fishing.

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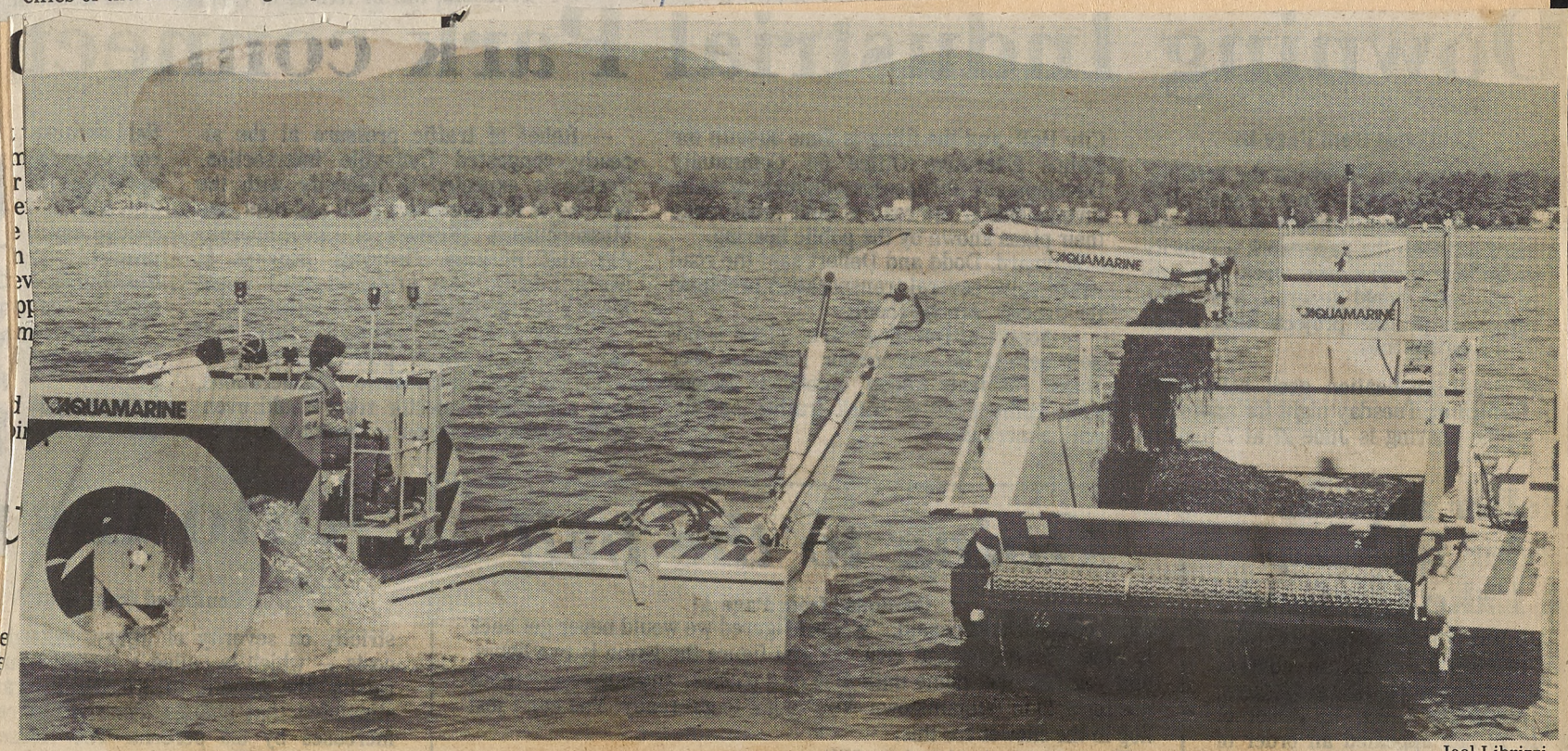


Joel Librizzi

6/9/88

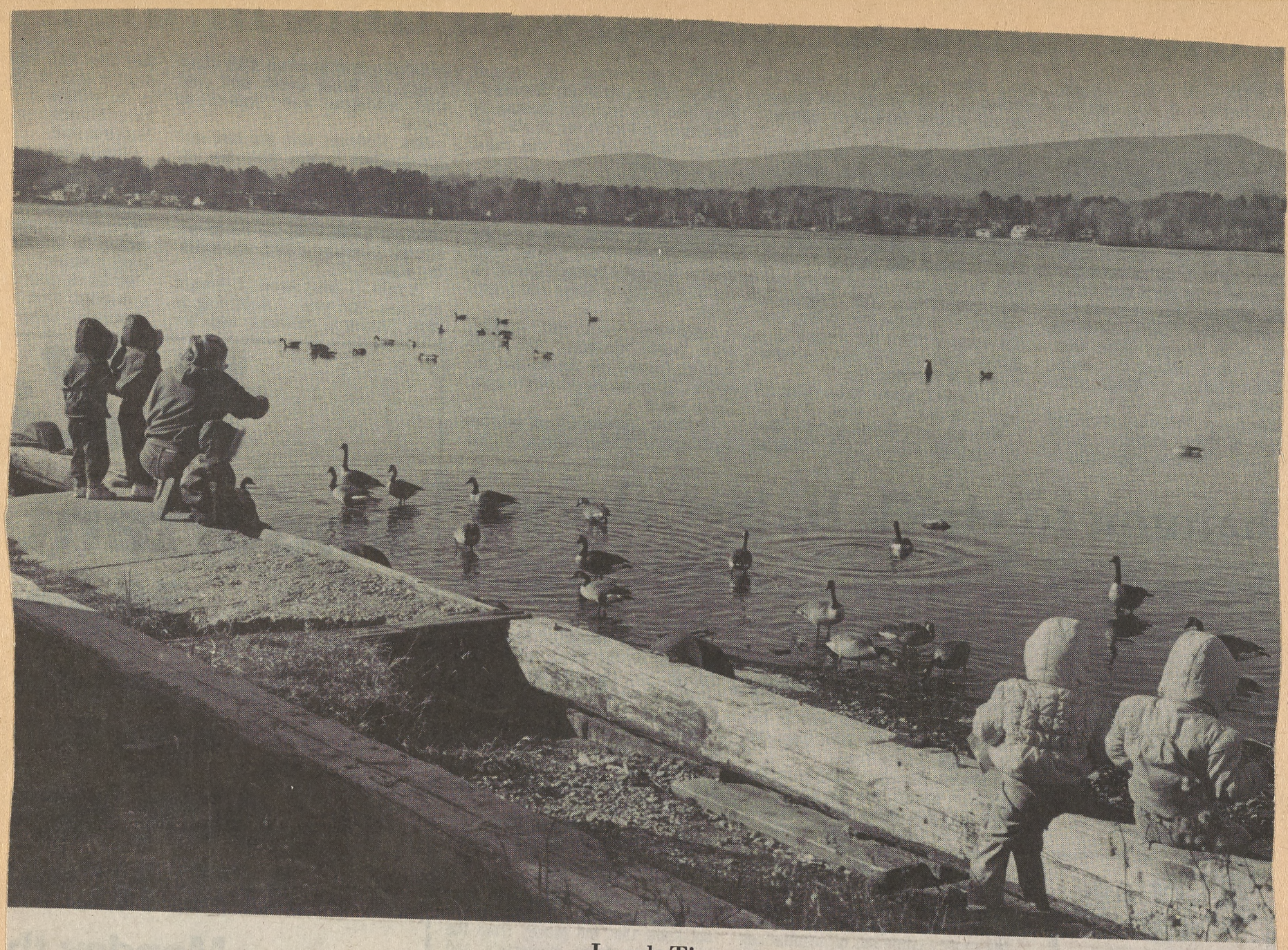
Aquatic lawn mower

The voyage of the Pontoosuc Lake weed harvester, shown here on the job yesterday, is a sure sign summer is nearly here.

152.

Winding Down

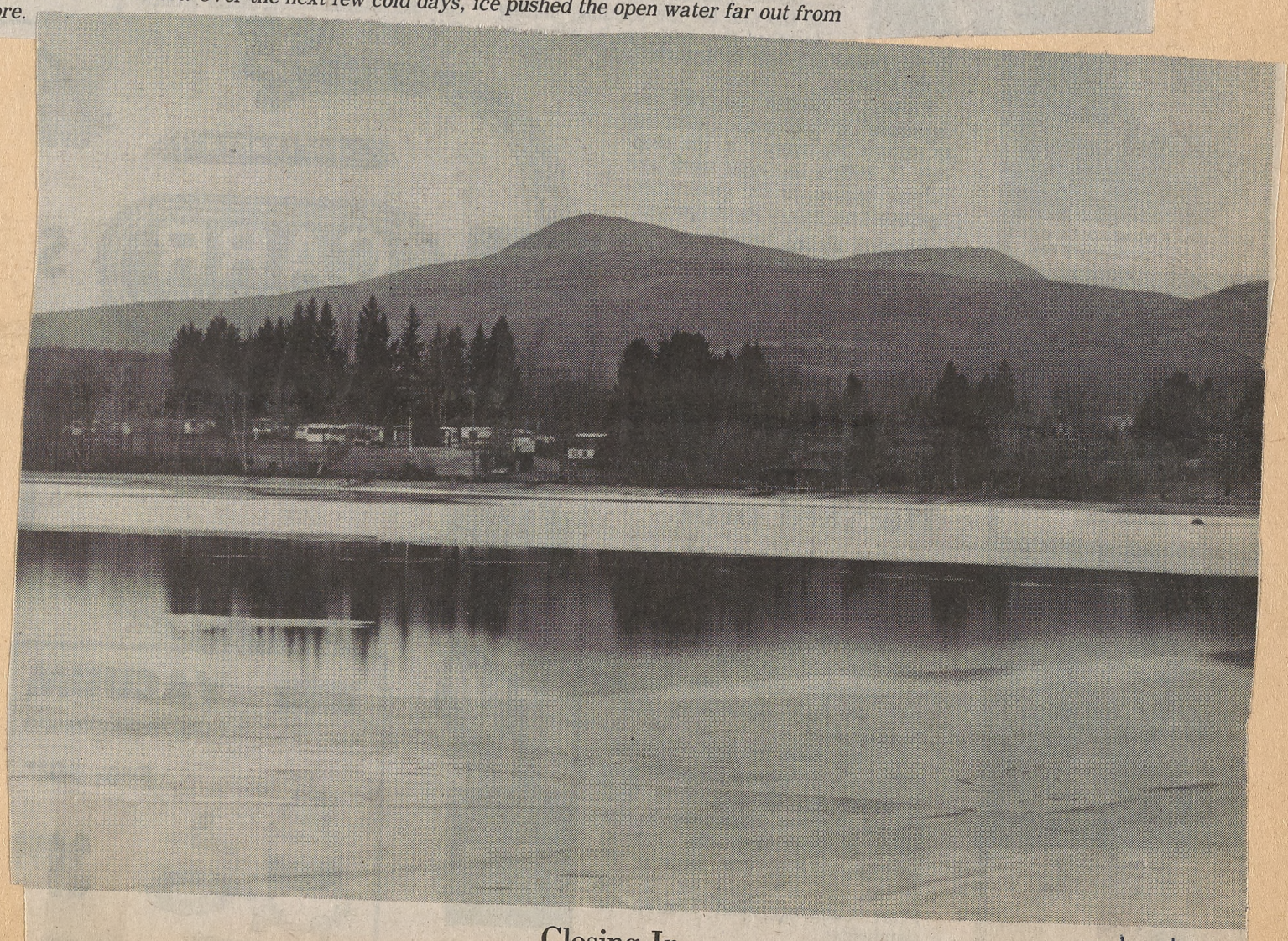
The annual drawdown of Pontoosuc Lake has taken place, revealing at the north end a winding channel that carries the flow of Lanesboro's Town Brook. Coupled with a spectacular sky, this normally submerged area makes an interesting sight.



Lunch Time

Part of a fearless flock of Canada geese numbering in the hundreds had lunch last Saturday in the form of pieces of bread tossed to them from the shore of Pontoosuc Lake. It may have been their last lunch of this sort. Over the next few cold days, ice pushed the open water far out from the shore.

12/10/88



Closing In

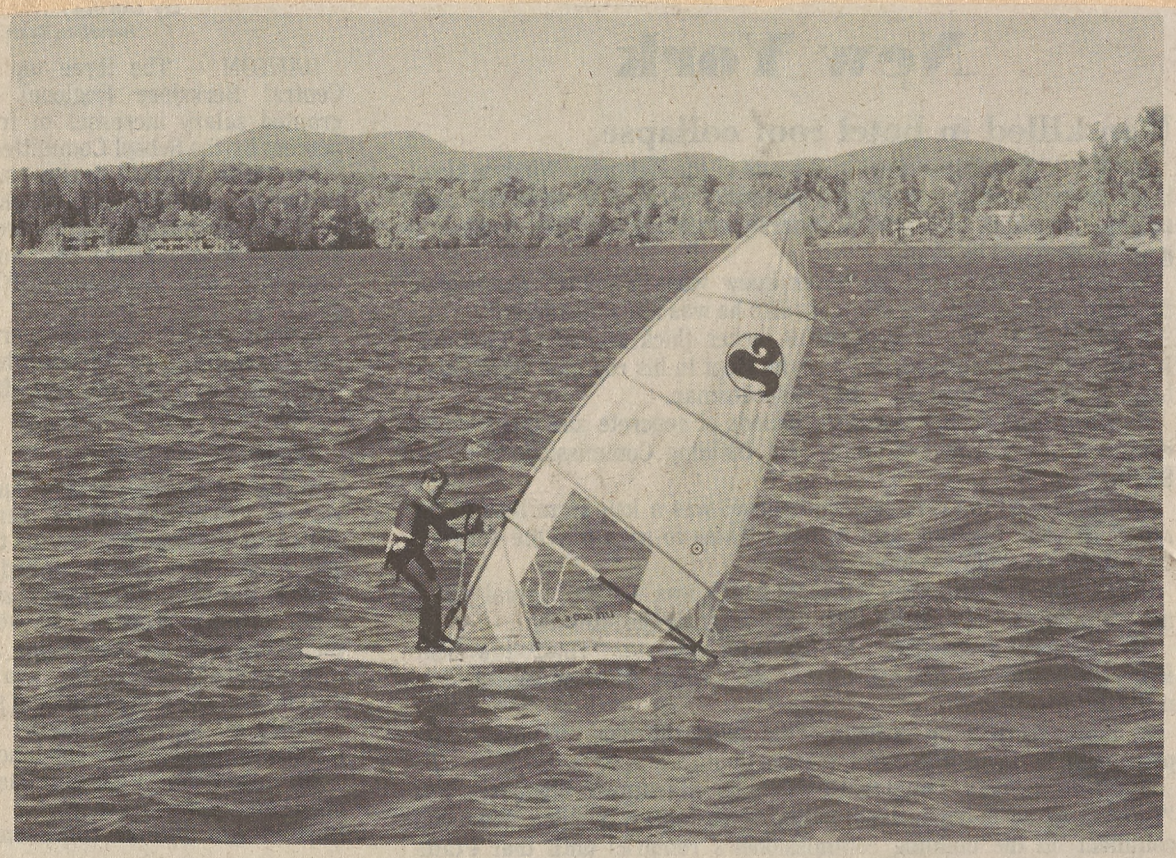
About the only large area of open water left in Pontoosuc Lake yesterday was at the lake's north end, where Mount Greylock looms in the distance. Winter is closing in.

12/10/88

Susan Plageman

Cooling off

Temperatures in the high 80s drew many people to the city's public beaches yesterday. At Onota Lake's Burbank Park at least one bather didn't bother to wear a swimsuit. 6/14/88



Temporarily Upright

The brisk wind on Thursday was a bit too much for this wind surfer on Onota Lake. He is righting his craft after a dunking, approximately his 200th.

June 24, 1988

Joel Librizzi

Cold comfort

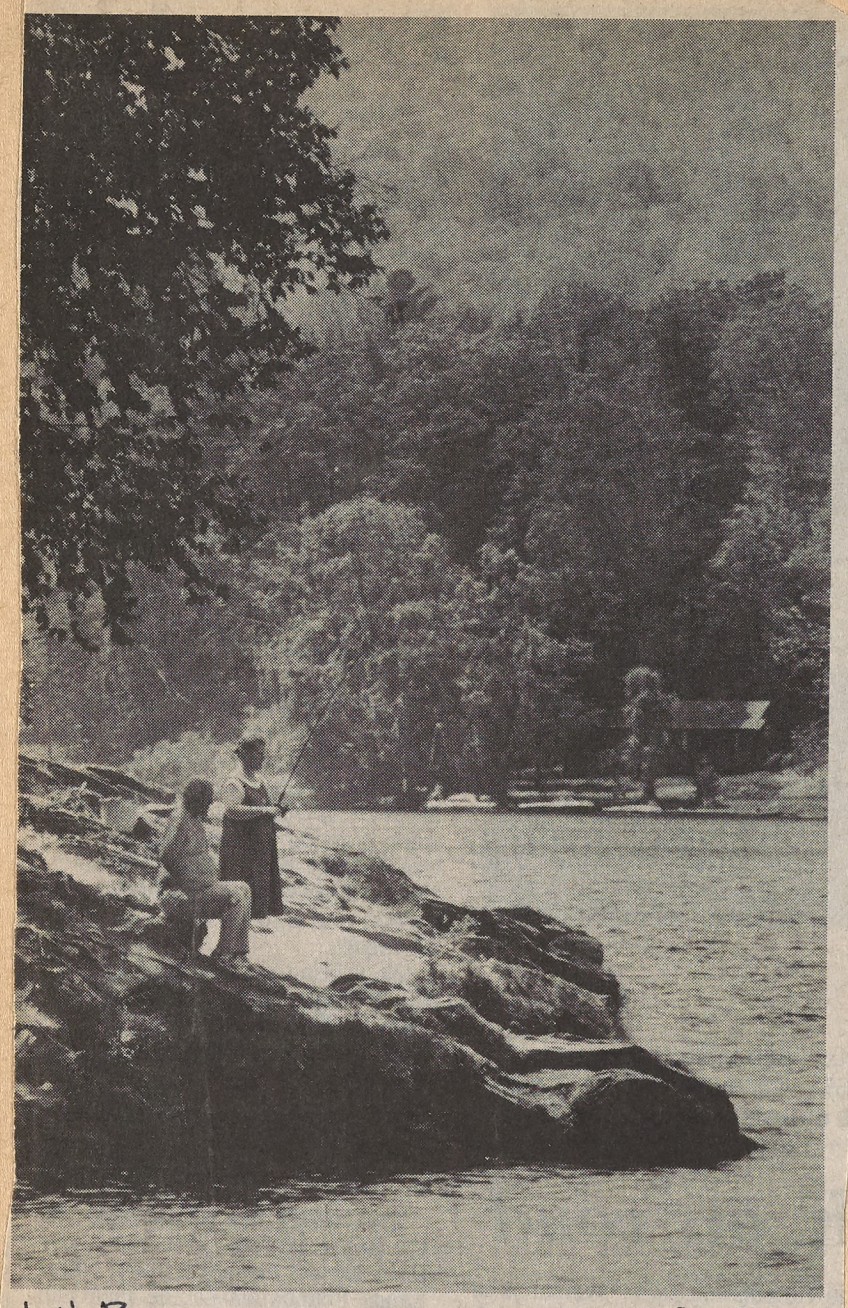
Beach master Mellissa Quirk and lifeguard Julie Matthews huddle under a blowing blanket at Pontoosuc Lake as Pittsfield's public beaches opened yesterday. It was no day for swimming. And it was a boring day for lifeguards.

7/2/88

6/19/88

Leslie Harrison

Gliding on Onota Lake last week, windsurfer Frank Wiles sought relief from the summer heat.

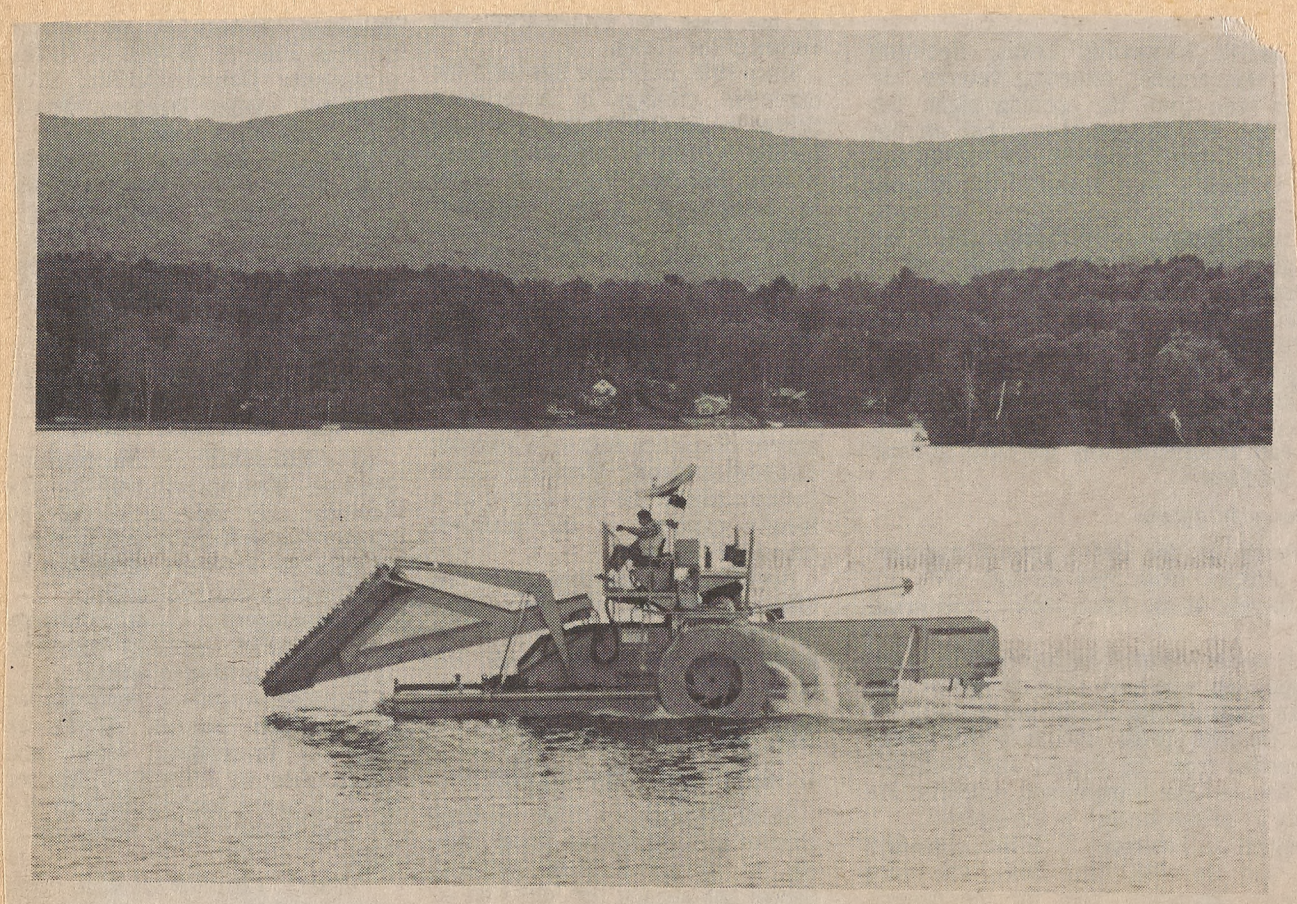


6/14/88

Susan Plageman

Gone fishin'

With temperatures in the high 80s, yesterday was a splendid day for some leisurely fishing from the rocky shore of Onota Lake. Cooling breezes off the water kept the heat at bay.



Weed Biter

Looking like some sort of naval landing craft, one of the county-owned weed harvesters paddle-wheels its way across Pontoosuc Lake.

7/2/88

Joel Librizzi

Picnic time

Summerlike weather yesterday attracted sizable crowds to Pittsfield's lakes for picnics, swimming and boating. These picnickers were relaxing on the hillside above the public swimming area at Pontoosuc Lake.

5/30/88

Joel Librizzi

HOT DOG named Binky found relief from yesterday's heat by splashing about in Pontoosuc Lake.

7-9-88

Wild Acres Fishing derby being run this weekend

PITTSFIELD — The Friends of Wild Acres will hold their annual fishing derby for youngsters aged 6 to 14 today and tomorrow.

The derby, co-sponsored by the city's Recreation Department, will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

According to the Friends organization, youngsters must register on arrival and again upon departure. Youngsters are limited to one pole each, and may not leave the pole unattended. They must catch and keep their own fish. Adults may cast, but the youngsters must hook and pull in their own fish.

Prizes will be awarded to the first three boys and first three girls catching tagged fish. The limit will be five trout. The Friends of Wild Acres membership allows fishing only for children aged 6 to 14, the elderly, and handicapped persons.

The fishing derby for the elderly will be Tuesday and Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and May 16 and 17, a Monday and Tuesday, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The derby for the handicapped will be May 15, a Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The area will be closed this Monday and also May 14, a Saturday, for stocking.

4/30/88

Donated Wild Acres sign honors Franklin Controy

PITTSFIELD — A large carved and painted sign dedicated to the late Franklin H. Controy that will mark the entrance to Wild Acres park on South Mountain Road was donated to the city by its maker, Richard V. Marchetto, in a brief ceremony at City Hall yesterday at noon.

Marchetto, a professional sign maker, said he had always wanted to donate some of his work to the city but was waiting for the right person to honor and was also waiting for an administration that he admired equally. He found both, he said, in Controy, a fiery and dedicated conservationist, and in the present mayor, Anne Everest Wojtkowski.

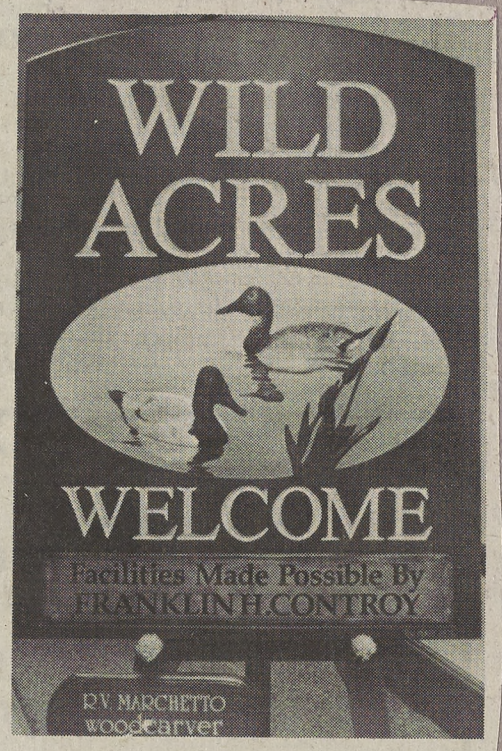
Marchetto also acknowledged the help he had received from watercolorist Robert W. Burnick Jr., who donated his time to work on the project.

The sign, which measures roughly 2 by 3 feet, features a bas-relief scene of a pair of canvasback ducks on a placid pond with a cattail in the foreground. Marchetto said he stopped counting man-hours at 90. Aside from the main color fields, it includes two coats of primer and four coats of finish. Like its subject, the sign is well-suited to the outdoors, he said.

Marchetto said though Controy was in the hospital — he died in December — while the sign was being made, he was kept up to date on its progress by City Councilor Bernard J. Goclowski, the current president of the Friends of Wild Acres. Goclowski originally asked Marchetto to make a sign in Controy's name as a commission, which resurrected the idea of donation in Marchetto's mind.

The sign will be installed Sunday, May 15, at 11 a.m.

4/30/88



419 children participate in Wild Acres fish derby

By Theodore Giddings
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Despite a mixed bag of weather, including rain, hail and numbing cold temperatures, 419 children participated over the weekend in the annual fishing derby at Wild Acres Pond.

The 318 boys and 101 girls, ages 6 to 14, reeled in 450 trout stocked by the Friends of Wild Acres, sponsors of the event with the city's Recreation Department.

Considering that 1,300 trout were stocked, the catch (350 Saturday and 100 yesterday) wasn't as good as in some previous years when fishing conditions were better. But the size of the fish was outstanding, some measuring up to 18 inches long.

The pond is closed today but will be open tomorrow and Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the elderly to fish.

Winners

Winners of prizes for catching tagged fish were listed as follows by Fred Garner of the Park Department:

Jeff Duchaine, 14, 164 South Main St., Lanesboro, lures; Mark Ferdyn, 14, 16 Ridge Ave., creel; Jason Caparelli, 11, 12 Cypress Lane, Onota Village, tackle box; Randy Spaniol, 7, 94 Hungerford St., reel; Marc Allessio, 13, P.O. Box 311, fillet knife, and Bob Mack, 11, 33 Alba Ave., fish scale.

Also, Nicole Vasseur, 7, Bracelan Court, Lenox, lures; Alida Dondi, 6, 40 Woodleigh Road, creel; Erica Lewis, 6, 33 Tyalor St., tackle box; Jean Haywood, 11, 90 John St., rod and reel; Kelly O'Neil, 8, 144 Eleanor Road, lures; Rebecca Proper, 6, 93 Furnace Hill Road, electric socks.

Prizes were donated by the Friends of Wild Acres with the exception of the rod and reel from Gege Sanginetti of Fenn Street Transmission.

5/2/88

4/25/88

Fishing derbies slated at Wild Acres Pond

PITTSFIELD — Dates for the spring trout fishing derbies at Wild Acres Pond have been announced by Bernard J. Goclowski, chairman of the Friends of Wild Acres, cosponsor of the events with the city Department of Recreation.

The derby for children ages 6-14 will be Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. The derby for senior citizens is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4.

Peaslee family sets reunion date

PITTSFIELD — The annual Peaslee Allied Association family reunion will be Aug. 21 from 10 to 8 at Wild Acres, it was announced today by association president Mrs. Marjorie Barnes of 48 Worthington St.

Activities will include fishing and games.

8-2-88

July 3, 1988

159

Picnic in the Park ...with Geese

By Lorraine Lauzon

Alexander "Scotty" Leslie feeds a goose at Wild Acres.

Joel Librizzi

First-time visitors to Pittsfield's Wild Acres Sanctuary — with 70 lush acres, woodlands, ponds, flora and fauna — are pleasantly surprised to discover such natural beauty situated so close to the city.

Pick a day, a sunny summer day, pack a picnic lunch and head for Wild Acres. The recreational park that is hidden away at the end of a well-kept dirt lane off South Mountain Road offers, among other things, 70 lush green acres, breathtakingly beautiful scenery, and two ponds fed by a picturesque stream. It is a jewel that still remains relatively undiscovered as a retreat to rest, relax and commune with the natural beauty of the Berkshires. The land, originally owned by the Shakers, officially became known as Wild Acres Sanctuary when purchased by the Pittsfield chapter of the Isaac Walton League in 1933. The area was used by the local chapter as its headquarters for a variety of recreation and conservation activities until 1965, when the property was deeded to the City of Pittsfield, to be managed by the Conservation Commission.

Alexander "Scotty" Leslie appreciated everything about Wild Acres. As a 40-year veteran Pittsfield park policeman, he has seen duty at Wild Acres since 1980 and presently shares shift hours with Lou Chojnowski. During a recent interview at Wild Acres, Leslie pointed out that as a recreational area, Wild Acres is ideally suited for families, school groups, scouts and organizations that can take advantage of the outdoor fireplaces, picnic tables and benches, restroom facilities and parking. An 1,800-square-foot roofed pavilion with moveable sides for protection from sudden rainstorms has a gas range, covered barbecue pits and seating for 200 people. There is also a volleyball court, a softball field, swings, horseshoe-pitching pits and an enclosed station for cleaning fish.

For longer than Leslie can remember, Pittsfield's popular annual fishing derbies have been held at Wild Acres. The event, scheduled for early spring, features separate fishing derbies for children, senior citizens and the handicapped. Formerly sponsored by the city, the event is now under the jurisdiction of a vounteer organization, Friends of Wild Acres, that took over the derbies in 1983 when available funds were depleted due to Proposition 2½. The rest of the season, fishing at the stocked lower pond is available only to children ages 6 through 14 with parental supervision.

There are several nature trails at Wild Acres. Of special interest to those who don't favor extended woodland mileage, the short trek to the 30-foot-high observation tower is an ideal way to view the acreage. In one direction the vista from the top of the tower overlooks the upper pond where beavers used to preside and, in the other direction, the hoards of golden pond lilies decorating the water's surface. There is a rustic bridge from which visitors can observe frogs leaping, turtles basking on rocks, sapphire-blue dragonflies shimmering in the air and waves of grass bending to vagrant breezes. The setting is similar to the famous Giverny garden of the French impressionist artist Claude Monet (1840-1926), who is well-known for his magnificent paintings of water lilies. The Berkshire equivalent can inspire artists as well as photographers.

Leslie emphasized that first-time visitors to Wild Acres are surprised to discover such beauty situated so close to the center of the city and they are quick to return. There is much for them to learn from simply quietly observing the way of life of the flora and fauna that flourish on the premises. Over the years, Leslie admitted he has become a self-taught naturalist. He keeps daily tabs on the creatures that make Wild Acres their home. "I see chipmunks, gray squirrels and lately a tough little red flying squirrel that isn't afraid to attack his gray neighbors. I've yet to come upon a snake around here, but there are turtles and lots of frogs. On hot days you can see them lined up along the shore . . . and, of course, there are the birds . . ."

He described a lone white heron that he recently watched flying gracefully over the lower pond, then descended to the water to stand on one leg. Leslie's favorites are the Canada geese that have been coming here every spring for years. So far this season he has counted only five sets of parents, each with its own family of from three to six goslings that hatched on the premises. Some years he has seen many more. "It really gets interesting around here in late July and early August when the parents teach the goslings how to fly."

The geese that leave in the autumn are handsome, stately birds. They are conscientious parents — one or the other constantly watching the brood. Quick to hiss at intruders, they will also shoo away any stray gosling that wanders into the family. Although Canada geese usually mate for life, should anything happen to a mate they will, on occasion, try to find another, or else they may become a "loner." On a recent Sunday, picnickers watched just such a loner circle the pond, honking loudly for attention, land on the water and then head for shore. The loner may have lost a mate, been too young to pair, or was just being inquisitive. In any case, when it came near one of the groups of goslings, one of the parent birds gave chase, forced the loner into the pond, pounced on its back, viciously pulled out its tail feathers and submerged it under water. Worried picnickers breathed a sigh of relief when the loner safely emerged a few seconds later further down the pond.

At Wild Acres, Canada geese seem unafraid of humans and will wander freely around the picnic area, even venturing right up to the picnic tables seeking handouts.

Canada geese may appear to be clumsy, but they can move with lightning speed when warranted, and for this reason, must be carefully reckoned with. At Wild Acres they seem unafraid of humans and will wander freely around the picnic area, even venturing right up to the picnic tables seeking handouts. The geese are essentially grazers and need look no farther for a nutritious diet than the rich grass, clover, rushes and underwater roots that are so readily plentiful.

Leslie has learned a lot about geese — "don't call them ducks" — from watching them. Children especially enjoy seeing them swim together, each little family queued up like toy soldiers in a parade with a parent on guard at each end of the line. Leslie has noticed that even under such parental scrutiny, once in awhile a gosling is missing. He believes a snapping turtle may have grabbed it. Dogs are natural enemies of geese, and Leslie says the creatures seem to be able to sense when a dog comes near. When the dog does appear, the geese retreat to the pond, form a semi-circle and then honk as if to entice the animal to come in after them. If the dog does, and Leslie said most know better, the geese leap on it, hold it under water and can drown it in a matter of minutes.

Leslie is proud of the beautiful birds and makes sure that visitors respect their rights. Over the years he has taken many photographs of them. In 1981 he made up a photo album and gave it to Franklin H. Controy, the former chairman of the Pittsfield Conservation Commission. His name, which is synonymous with the place, comes up often in conversations with Leslie or anyone else connected with Wild Acres. Controy was chairman for many years and had a special affinity for Wild Acres, putting much of his time as well as money into its development. He was personally responsible for many of the amenities, such as the pavilion and picnic tables that he lent a hand to design and build. Leslie recalled the geese were Controy's "babies." The two men spent happy hours watching the beautiful creatures from the porch of the old log cabin that serves as headquarters for the park police. After Controy passed away in December 1987, Wild Acres was officially dedicated to him. On June 15 of this year, a new nature trail was also publicly dedicated to him. Controy's spirit is still very much a part of the park's ambiance.

Leslie finds peace in the natural surroundings and treasures his moments on duty there. Born in Glasglow, Scotland, 72 years ago, he credits the fact that he doesn't look his age to the contentment his job affords. A retired Pittsfield General Electric Co. employee, he worked for 44 years in the now-defunct power transformer department. Always interested in his fellow man as well as nature, he has served as a Pittsfield park policeman at various city recreational areas and recalled time on duty at Deming Park where he worked the evening shift. He also served as sports director for the Pittsfield Parks Department and volunteered for years at the Boys' Club as coach for various teams and "for anything else that came up."

Over the years he has come to know countless area youths and still keeps in touch with some of them, sending birthday cards and graduation congratulations.

A family man, he and his wife, Juanita, who he married in 1940, are the parents of three children. There are eight grandchildren — two in Lanesboro, the others in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Leslie speaks of them with pride and corresponds regularly, keeping them informed of the latest news about Wild Acres.

Wild Acres will be open this summer, seven days a week, from noon to 8, depending on budget approval. Reservations are required to use the pavilion, for which there is a fee. For more details about the park and the Friends of Wild Acres, call the Recreation Department (Springside House) between the hours of 9 and 5, Monday through Friday. □

Lorraine Lauzon is a free-lance writer in Pittsfield.

Area softball

Pittsfield girls win at Greenfield

GREENFIELD — The Pittsfield Recreation Department's age 15-and-under A Team, which last month finished third in the state tournament in Easthampton, swept four games last weekend to capture first place in its division in the annual Greenfield Scholarship Softball Tournament.

Two other Pittsfield teams competed in the tournament, with the 15-and-under B team finishing fourth with a 2-2 record and the 12-and-under team bowing out in the first round with two losses.

Becky Ladley earned complete-game wins in all four games for the Pittsfield A Team, which lifted its summer record to 15-6 by beating Greenfield A 12-1, Pittsfield B 8-0, Amherst 5-3 and Amherst 3-2.

In the 3-2 championship win over Amherst, Pittsfield scored all three of its runs in the first inning, and Ladley made them hold up. Traci Rand's RBI single drove in the eventual game-winning run, and the inning also included hits by Ladley, Kristine Barzousky and Marci Cornell.

Amherst cut the deficit with one run in the fourth, then rallied in the seventh, loading the bases. One run scored on a double play, but the tying run was stranded on third base when the game ended with a ground ball.

Against Greenfield, Kristen Fiedler had two doubles and four RBI, Rand a single, double and two RBI and Terry Mierzejewski two hits and three RBI. Against Pittsfield B, Fiedler and Barzousky each had three hits and Mierzejewski had two. In the first win over Amherst, Ladley, Cornell, Barzousky, Fiedler and Jody Hessler each had two hits.

The A Team will end its season Aug. 20 and 21 by playing in a tournament at North Kingstown, R.I. The team will be raising funds at Friday night's Pittsfield Cubs' game, and by conducting a car wash and bake sale this weekend at K-Mart.

The Pittsfield B Team went 2-2 in the Greenfield tournament, winning 10-3 over Amherst B and 16-3 over North Kingstown, but losing 8-0 to Pittsfield A and 11-7 to Greenfield A.

Colleen Murray had two hits and three RBI and Shannon Gomes two hits against Amherst. Jackie Robinson had three hits and five RBI, Gomes two hits and four RBI and Anne Tropeano two hits and two RBI against North Kingstown.

In the losses, the B Team had only three hits against the Pittsfield A Team, but Stephanie Ladley and Tami Monterosso each had two hits and two RBI against Greenfield. The B Team is now 3-5 in three weeks of action.

In the under-12 division, Pitts-

SPORTS

field's season record fell to 3-8 with losses of 11-7 to eventual tournament champion Greenfield A and 12-7 to Amherst.

8-9-88

Softball roundup

Pittsfield girls 3rd in state event

EASTHAMPTON — The Pittsfield Recreation Department All-Stars finished third among seven teams in the Massachusetts slow-pitch softball tournament for girls 15 and under at Nonotuck Park by dropping two games yesterday after opening in fine fashion Saturday.

The Pittsfield team fell to defending New England champion Leominster 13-0 and Southampton 8-6 after defeating Greenfield 13-0 and Northampton 8-6 the day before.

Leominster and Southampton will represent the state in the New England regionals at Wallingford, Conn., at the end of the month. Pittsfield, the alternate, will go to the regionals if either Leominster or Southampton cannot go.

Against Leominster, Pittsfield could muster only three hits. Needing a win against Southampton in the double-elimination tournament, Pittsfield came up two runs short, despite a 3-for-4 performance by Nancy Ringer.

On Saturday, things went much better for Pittsfield. Becky Ladley tossed a three-hit shutout in the 13-0 win over Greenfield. She had two hits to help her cause while Pam Jones also had two hits. Ladley, who had four RBI, was the winning pitcher in the 8-6 win over Northampton. Terry Mierzejewski had three hits as well for Pittsfield.

County slow-pitch

PITTSFIELD — Jim Quinto's RBI single in the bottom of the eighth gave Northrup Construction a 9-8 win over the Berkshire Medical Center Bombers in a Berkshire County Slow-Pitch softball league game at the Softball Complex last night. The game was one of four originally scheduled June 22. Mike Hopper had three hits and four RBI for the winners, while Chuck Gaylord had a home run and two RBI. Tony Campbell had three hits for the Bombers.

Decker Auto Body played twice last night and won both games. Decker trounced Keith Clark 15-6, behind Don Haywood's two hits and four RBI, Wayne Slosek's two triples and three RBI and Joe Pulardy's two hits and three RBI. For Keith Clark, Rich Dalzell had four hits and two RBI and Mike Dascani had four hits.

In the second game, Decker edged East Street Video 2-1. Rich Aloisi had two hits for the winners, while Mike Ortega and Dan Archey each had two hits for the losers.

Moldmaster's Terry Kushi homered in an 11-6 win over Jay's. Jim Meaney and Marc Zorbo each had three hits for Moldmaster, and John Martin had three doubles and three RBI for Jay's.

Pittsfield girls' league

Nancy Ringer belted two home runs, added two singles and knocked in four runs as the Red Sox rolled past the Brewers 16-2 in the major division of the Pittsfield Recreation Department's girls' softball league. 7-11-88

Alexia Trova added a single, a double and drove in five runs for the Red Sox to back the one-hit pitching of Anne Tropeano.

In other action, Anne Rajotte cracked a home run, double and single as the Eagles edged the Athletics 11-10. Jackie Robinson drove in two runs with a double and triple while Eric Murphy contributed three singles and two RBI for the Eagles. Colleen Murphy banged out a triple and two singles for the A's.

Jennifer Rabidoux and Debbie Munger each belted a home run as the Orioles slipped past the Blue Jays 6-5. Tracie Rand had a pair of hits for the Jays.

Christine Barzowski had a single and a home run for the Red Sox as they downed the Orioles by a 16-8 count. Elizabeth Vallone added three hits and a pair of RBI for the Sox, while Jody Gilardi delivered a single, triple and home run for the Orioles.

In other major division action, Lori Cook pitched a four-hitter and Tracy Rand belted two homers as the Blue Jays blanked the Brewers 14-0. Kristen Fiedler had a grand slam and two singles for the winners. Stacy Rainey and Tara Dellert each had two hits for the Brewers.

Girls' major division

The Athletics posted a pair of narrow victories last week in the Parks Department girls' major division softball, 9-6 over the Red Sox and 12-11 over the Orioles.

Paula Ciepiela and Jody Hessler each had three hits against the Red Sox, who got three hits from Nancy Ringer and two from Alexia Trova. Colleen Murray had a homer and Joline Krol two hits against the Orioles, who got three hits from Jennifer Rabidoux.

In other games, Jennifer Rabidoux and Debbie Munger homered to lead the Orioles to a 6-5 win over the Blue Jays; Ringer had a homer and Trova two hits as the Red Sox won 12-8 over the Eagles and Melissa Kaufer had a homer, Anne Rajotte four hits and Shauna Smith two hits as the Eagles won 11-10 over the Brewers.

In losing causes, Karen Ginthwain had two hits for the Blue Jays, Rajotte three hits for the Eagles and Shellie Henault three hits for the Brewers. 7-6-88

Area softball

Expos win girls' minor division

7-24-88

Stephanie Ladley struck out 11 batters for her ninth win of the season, and Laura Phillips, Danielle Jones and Karen Farina had two hits each as the Expos clinched first place in the Pittsfield Parks girls' softball minor division with a 17-11 win over the Dodgers. Gina Bishop had four hits for the Dodgers.

In the final standings, the Expos were 11-1, the Dodgers 9-3, Red Sox 8-4, Fillies 5-7, and the Falcons, Mets and Giants all 3-9.

In other games, Ladley and Heather Arsoneau had four hits each and Kellie Powers three as the Expos won 15-3 over the Fillies; Bishop, Katie Hickey, Kristie Marchetto and Caroline Herman had two hits each as the Dodgers clinched second place with a 10-9 win over the Red Sox, and Gina Labrode had three hits and Vicki Beliski and Amy Rembish each had a home run as the Red Sox won 18-2 over the Giants.

Girls' major division

Anne Rajotte homered to tie the game and Danise Maluda drove in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to lead the Eagles to a 9-8 win over the Blue Jays in the championship game of the Pittsfield Parks Department girls' softball major division.

Rajotte also had three singles and three RBI for the winners, Amy Liverseige and Kristen Sykes each had a double and two singles and Jackie Robinson had a triple, two singles and two RBI. For the Jays, Kristen Fiedler had a homer, single and two RBI and Jennifer Fiedler three singles and two RBI. 7-24-88

Collector

Collecting baseball cards and stamps has been going on for a long time, even before this boy nestled with his album at the base of the big oak on the Pittsfield Common in 1962.

4/30/88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, whiffle ball; 11, blob; 1, arts and crafts; 3, Siamese tag.
Clapp: 9, wonder ball; 11, dodge ball; 1, prison ball; 3, sports and games.
Common: 9, make African flag; 11, African blind man's bluff; 1, sports and games; 3, alligator.
Coolidge: 9, arts and crafts ; 11, nutrition; 1, African costume ball; 3, checker tournament.
Deming: 9, self portraits; 11, African dance; 1, crab soccer; 3, African trivia.
Highland: 9, African folk songs; 11, safari hunt; 1, win, lose or draw; 3, volleyball tournament.
Kirvin: 9, sports and games; 11, relay races; 1, track meet; 3, drawing contest.
Lebanon: 9, sports and games ; 11, unusual item collection; 1, ant hunt; 3, charades.
Morningside: 9, talk about Africans; 11, arts and crafts; 1, African music; 3, cat and rat.
Pitt: 9, thumper; 11, field trip to Coolidge; 1, paper flowers; 3, man, monkey, crab, rabbit.
West Memorial: 9, beads; 11, prison ball; 1, arts and crafts; 3, candy scramble.
Wilson: 9, make African flag; 11, 3-legged race; 1, water balloon toss; 3, story time.

7-21-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, coloring contest; 11, see-saw contest; 1, kicking contest; 3, volleyball.
Clapp: 9, arts 'n' crafts; 11, penny hunt; 1, tee ball; 3, basketball.
Common: 1-3, lake day.
Coolidge: 9, college olympics; 11, nutrition; 1, arts 'n' crafts; 3, spud.
Deming: 9, wiffle ball tournament; 11, leaf collecting; 1, bring a pet; 3, tug of war.
Highland: 9, thumper; 11, freeze tag; 1, balloon buddies; 3, crazy hat contest.
Kirvin: 9, bracelet making; 11, spud; 1, tasting party; 3, crazy hat contest.
Lebanon: 9, pet rocks; 11, cup tossing; 1, sports and games; 3, grass creations.
Morningside: 9, spud; 11, treasure hunt; 1, trivia games; 3, closing ceremonies.
Pitt: 9, arts 'n' crafts; 11, dragon tail; 1, trip to museum; 3, red rover.
West Memorial: 9, sports and games; 11, egg toss; 1, paper airplane contest; 3, mini olympics.
Wilson: 9, prison ball; 11, softball; 1, arts 'n' crafts; 3, story time.

FRIDAY

The activity for all parks will be a games fest at Clapp Park from 1 to 4.

7/13/88

Summer leisure activities set for special needs

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation will again run a free summer recreation program for children with special needs at Highland Elementary School on Brooks Avenue. This year's program will be Monday through Friday, from July 5 through Aug. 19. Age limits are 3-21, the ages of eligibility for special education.

Bus transportation will be provided for all Pittsfield residents taking part in the program.

The program is oriented toward recreation and the use of leisure time but also will touch on language development, reading skills, motor coordination, personal hygiene and concept development. Instruction in arts and crafts, games and tournaments, and self-help skills such as cooking will be included.

Special events and outings, such as trips to Onota Lake, are frequently scheduled. Highlights of past seasons have included the annual carnival, a group trip to Mountain Park in Holyoke, and a track and field day at Taconic High School.

To ensure transportation, registration must be made by June 15 at the Department of Recreation, according to Claudia Williamson, recreation supervisor.

5/28/88

Playground schedule

TUESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, mother may I; 1, tug of war; 3, egg toss.
Clapp: 9, stand up; 11, soccer; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, Monopoly.
Common: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, water balloon toss; 1, bubble blowing contest; 3, charades.
Coolidge: 9, ship wreck; 11, kick the can; 1, olympic flag; 3, talent show.
Deming: 9, relay race; 11, show and tell; 1, Siamese tag; 3, arts and crafts.
Highland: 9, punt, pass and kick; 11, paper airplane race; 1, sneaker toss; 3, izzy dizzy.
Kirvin: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, balloon decorating; 1, playground trip; 3, marshmallow races.
Lebanon: 9, puppet show; 11, three-legged race; 1, obstacle course; 3, softball.
Morningside: 9, arts and crafts; 11, nutrition program; 1, songs; 3, hokey pokey.
Pitt: 9, water balloon toss; 11, obstacle course; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, story time.
West Memorial: 9, bobbing for apples; 11, painting contest; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, tag.
Wilson: 9, football; 11, volleyball; 1, soccer game; 3, caterpillar.

7/11/88

Playground schedule

MONDAY

Allen Heights: 9, Mexican hat dance; 11, pinata; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, capture the flag.
Clapp: 9, drawing contest; 11, blob; 1, soccer; 3, sports and games supervisor.
Common: 9, make Mexican flag; 11, balloon decorating contest; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, Mexican bean finding contest.
Coolidge: 9, ghost stories; 11, Mexican hat dance; 1, Mexican frisbee; 3, crazy hat contest.
Deming: 9, Mexican hat dance; 11, bulletin board; 1, pinata; 3, puppets.
Highland: 9, pinata breaking contest; 11, Mexican mural drawing; 1, steal the bacon; 3, rice pictures.
Kirvin: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, clean up park; 1, Mexican games; 3, run the bases.
Lebanon: 9, creations with bark; 11, penny hunt; 1, painting; 3, softball.
Morningside: 9, necklace making; 11, arts and crafts supervisor; 1, talk about Mexicans; 3, make rings.
Pitt: 9, ethnic tag; 11, make pinata; 1, bull fight; 3, break pinata.
West Memorial: 9, puppet making contest; 11, bubble gum contest; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, freckle contest.
Wilson: 9, Simon Says; 11, arts and crafts; 1, Mexican hat contest; 3, story time.

7-18-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Youngsters of all Pittsfield parks will be cleaning their parks from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

All of them are invied to attend lake day at the Pittsfield State Forest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a cookout, swimming and games.

8-25-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9-11, football with another park; 1, sports and games; 3, abstract art.
Clapp: 9, duck duck goose; 11, checkers; 1, water time; 3, arts and crafts.
Common: 9, drama; 11, win, lose or draw; 1, arts and crafts; 3, can collecting.
Coolidge: 9, sports and games; 11, nutrition; 1, keep Coolidge clean; 3, puttin' on the hits.
Deming: 9, swing contest; 11, tic tac toe; 1, sing-along; 3, nature walk.
Highland: 9, touch football; 11, clean the box; 1, keep away; 3, sneaker toss.
Kirvin: 9, jump rope contest; 11, arts and crafts; 1, work on carnival booth; 3, basketball.
Lebanon: 9, arts and crafts; 11, capture the flag; 1, TV tag; 3, clean up park.
Morningside: 9, make puppets; 11, sports and games; 1, wonderball; 3, upwords.
Pitt: 9, balloon shaving; 11, T-ball; 1, silent ball; 3, freeze tag.
West Memorial: 9, penny hunt; 11, work on carnival booth; 1, sports and games; 3, clean up park contest.
Wilson: 9, jump over rope contest; 11, kick the can; 1, penny shoot contest; 3, horse.

7-27-88

Playground schedule

WEDNESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, hat day; 11, lime eating contest; 1, egg decorating contest; 3, magnet making.
Clapp: 9, sports and games; 11, clean up the park; 1, soccer; 3, flying Dutchman.
Common: 9, huntsman; 11, pictures with acorns; 1, kids' choice; 3, musical bases.
Coolidge: 9, cops and robbers; 11, paper fans; 1 to 3, lake day.
Deming: 9, relay race; 11, who can stay clean; 1, kickball; 3, clean the clubhouse.
Highland: 9, silent ball; 11, litter hunt; 1, arts and crafts; 3, home run derby.
Kirvin: 9, water day; 11, soccer relay races; 1, water balloons; 3, create carnival booth.
Lebanon: 9, story hour; 11, clean out river; 1, hole in one; 3, bracelet making.
Morningside: 9, rock painting; 11, best rock contest; 1, nature walk; 3, leap frog.
Pitt: 9, clean up park; 11, bob for apples; 1, sports and games; 3, spud.
West Memorial: 9, arts and crafts; 11, fashion show; 1, rid litter day; 3, thumper.
Wilson: 9, clean poster contest; 11, arts and crafts; 1, sports and games; 3, daily clean up.

7-26-88

Playground schedule

FRIDAY

Allen Heights: 9, freeze tag; 11, checkers tournament; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Clapp: 9, popsicle sticks; 11, duck, duck, goose; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Common: 9, soccer; 11, toothpicks and straws; 1-4, carnival.
Coolidge: 9, monkey in the middle; 11, toothpick sculptures; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Deming: 9, find the garbage; 11, bubble gum-blowing contest; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Highland: 9, bulletin board; 11, nukem ball; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Kirvin: 9, candyland; 11, balloon races; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Lebanon: 9, ant hunt; 11, leaf collecting; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Morningside: 9, litter bug; 11, rice pictures; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Pitt: 9, piggy banks; 11, one on one; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
West Memorial: 9, relay race; 11, bubble gum contest; 1-4, carnival at the Common.
Wilson: 9, arts and crafts; 11, soccer tournament; 1-4, carnival at the Common.

7-28-88

Playground schedule

WEDNESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, shoe kicking contest; 11, siamese relay races; 1, colored sand designs; 3, what do you see in the cloud?
Clapp: 9, story hour; 11, cat-n-rat; 1, bobbing for apples; 3, cardboard sliding.
Common: 9, mother may I; 11, free throw contest; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, run, hit, throw competition.
Coolidge: 9, drama lesson; 11, checkers; 1, paper flowers; 3, tv tag.
Deming: 9, simon says; 11, face painting; 1, pine cone hunt; 3, kick the can.
Highland: 9, candy hunt; 11, four square tournament; 1, touch football; 3, egg people.
Kirvin: 9, rock collecting; 11, scavenger hunt; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, yo-yo contest.
Lebanon: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, can collecting; 1, pin the tail on Ken; 3, field trip.
Morningside: 9, scavenger hunt; 11, obstacle course; 1, best painted picture; 3, rock painting.
Pitt: 9, pet rocks; 11, 200 yd. dash; 1, tape vases; 3, dodge ball.
West Memorial: 9, horseshoe tournament; 11, picnic day; 1, apple bite; 3, touch football.
Wilson: 9, hokey pokey; 11, macaroni pictures; 1, kick the can; 3, red rover.

8-2-88

Playground schedule

MONDAY

Allen Heights: 9 a.m., bulletin board; 11 a.m., macaroni crafts; 1 to 3 p.m., lake day.
Clapp: 9 a.m., ultimate frisbee; 11 a.m., charades; 1 p.m., arts and crafts supervisor; 3 p.m., leap frog.
Common: 9 a.m., clothespin dolls; 11 a.m., prison ball; 1 p.m., arts and crafts; 3 p.m., face painting.
Coolidge: 9 a.m., t.v. tag; 11 a.m., around the world; 1 p.m., wonder ball; 3 p.m., sports and games supervisor.
Highland: 9 a.m., nature art; 11 a.m., nature walk; 1 p.m., rock painting; 3 p.m., capture the flag.
Kirvin: 9 a.m., make collages; 11 a.m., wonderball; 1 p.m., volleyball; 3 p.m., ultimate frisbee.
Lebanon: 9 a.m., dress up day; 11 a.m., relay races; 1 p.m., beat the record; 3 p.m., swinging contest.
Morningside: 9 a.m., rock painting; 11 a.m., paper plate hats; 1 p.m., rock concert, rock parade.
Pitt: 9 a.m., decorate bulletin board; 11 a.m., art appreciation; 1 p.m., trip to museum, 3 p.m., story books.
West Memorial: 9 a.m., drawing contest; 11 a.m., soccer; 1 p.m., lime eating contest; 3 p.m., paper dying.
Wilson: 9 a.m., kick the can, 11 a.m., people pass; 1 p.m., sports and games supervisor; 3 p.m., art hour.
Deming: 9 a.m., spud; 11 a.m., water balloon toss; 1 p.m., hide and seek; 3 p.m., magazine collages.

TUESDAY

Allen Heights: 9 a.m., pet rocks; 11 a.m., jump rope contest; 1 p.m., vegetable prints; 3 p.m., corn people.
Clapp: 9 a.m., basketball; 11 a.m., marshmallow people; 1 p.m., sports and games supervisor; 3 p.m., crayon etching.
Common: 9 a.m., mother may I, 11 a.m., sports and games supervisor; 1 p.m., make pen holders, 3 p.m., running races.
Coolidge: 9 a.m., dance contest; 11 a.m., nutrition coloring; 1 p.m., finger painting; 3 p.m., candy necklaces.
Deming: 9 a.m., coloring contest; 11 a.m., show 'n' tell; 1 p.m., pet rocks; 3 p.m., run the bases.
Highland: 9 a.m., arts and crafts supervisor; 11 a.m., freeze tag; 1 p.m., lemonade stand, 3 p.m., steal the bacon.
Kirvin: 9 a.m., candyland; 11 a.m. show and tell; 1 p.m., swing contest; 3 p.m., arts and crafts supervisor.
Lebanon: 9 a.m, friendship bracelets, 11 a.m., 4 square, 1 p.m. arts and crafts supervisor; 3 p.m. bean bag toss.
Morningside: 9 a.m., paper chains; 11 a.m., nutrition; 1 p.m., paper feathers; 3 p.m., tissue roses.
Pitt: 9 a.m., win, loose, draw; 11 a.m., famous works of art; 1 p.m., picnic day; 3 p.m., lollipop licking contest.
Wilson: 9 a.m., cat and rat; 11 a.m., duck duck goose; 1 p.m., penny hunt; 3 p.m. TV tag.

8-8-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, throwing contest; 11, peanut people; 1, quiet contest; 3, stick painting.
Clapp: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, finger painting; 1, soccer; 3, tumbling.
Common: 9, ghost stories; 11, blind man's bluff; 1, Marco Polo; 3, kick the can.
Coolidge: 9, scavenger cleanup; 11, Indian masks; 1, mask parade; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Deming: 9, snake train; 11, steal the bacon; 1, floor hockey; 3, king and queen of park.
Highland: 9, crazy hat contest; 11, dodge ball; 1, water balloon toss; 3, trivial pursuit.
Kirvin: 9, coloring contest; 11, monopoly; 1, clean contest; 3, t-ball.
Lebanon: 9, wax making; 11, lollipop-licking contest; 1, running race; 3, softball.
Morningside: 9, Nerf football; 11, swinging contest; 1, face painting; 3, lemon-eating contest.
Pitt: 9, capture the flag; 11, marshmallow people; 1, snack day; 3, finger painting.
West Memorial: 9, tasting contest; 11, wheelbarrow races; 1, skill day; 3, softball-throwing contest.
Wilson: 9, peanut chase; 11, story time; 1, water balloon fight; 3, kids' choice.

8-3-88

Playground schedule

TUESDAY

Deming: 9, birthday party; 11, decorate your bike; 1, prison ball; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Highland: 9, toothpick horses; 11, pet rocks; 1, sneaker toss; 3, silent ball.
Kirvin: 9, shoots and ladders; 11, see saw contest; 1, basketball throw; 3, book trip.
Lebanon: 9, push up contest; 11, paper chains; 1, simon says; 3, baby picture contest.
Morningside: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, jelly bean hunt; 1, prison ball contest; 3, shuttle races.
Pitt: 9, show-n-tell; 11, sit up contest; 1, blind man's bluff; 3, shipwreck.
West Memorial: 9, painting contest; 11, bead day; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, fan face making.
Wilson: 9, jumprope contest; 11, arts and crafts supervisor; 1, simon says; 3, spud.

8-1-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, sports and games; 11, pom-pom people; 1, lollipop ghosts; 3, birthday celebration.
Clapp: 9, flying dutchman; 11, simon says; 1, softball; 3, nature walk.
Common: 9, simon says; 11, follow the leader; 1, bike rodeo; 3, all season flowers.
Coolidge: 9, sneaker toss; 11, nutrition; 1, arts and crafts; 3, marathon.
Deming: 9, Leonardo Da Vinci Day; 11, nature pictures; 1, paint a scene; 3, sports and games.
Highland: 9, tissue flowers; 11, scavenger hunt; 1, silly putty pictures; 3, popcorn stringing.
Kirving: 9, peanut people; 11, park pictures; 1, pet rock; 3, paint pet rocks.
Lebanon: 9, nature hike; 11, decorate T-shirts; 1, flower hunt; 3, obstacle course.
Morningside: 9, sport and games; 11, sand castings; 1, fish or animal mobile; 3, arts and crafts.
Pitt: 9, arts and crafts; 11, watermelon seed contest; 1, rice pictures; 3, dodge ball.
West Memorial: 9, Michelangelo Day; 11, volleyball; 1, sports and games; 3, straw painting.
Wilson: 9, arts and crafts; 11, witch doctor; 1, capture the flag; 3, soccer.

8-10-88

Playground schedule

MONDAY

Allen Heights: 9, bulletin board; 11, ghost stories; 1, pillow polo; 3, freckle contest.
Clapp: 9, frisbee; 11, prison ball; 1, simon says; 3, soccer.
Common: 9, simon says; 11, paper chains; 1, lollipop licking contest, penny hunt.
Coolidge: 9, park decathlon; 11, paper dolls; 1, bocce ball; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Deming: 9, spud; 11, sock puppets; 1, carroms tournament; 3, ugliest face contest.
Highland: 9, finger puppets; 11, thumper; 1, licorice; 3, ultimate frisbee.
Kirvin: 9, candyland; 11, balloon painting; 1, kickball; 3, frisbee.
Lebanon: 9, tag; 11, finger painting; 1, peanut hunt; 3, kick the can.
Morningside: 9, bubble blowing contest; 11, stuffed animal contest; 1, bulletin board; 3, show and tell.
Pitt: 9, bulletin board; 11, straw painting; 1, I spy; 3, snatch.
West Memorial: 6, swinging marathon; 11, coloring contest; 1, volleyball tournament; 3, one on one tournament.
Wilson: 9, red light/green light; 11, egg toss; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, story time.

7-30-88

Playground schedule

FRIDAY

Allen Heights: 9, arts and crafts; 11, show and tell; 1, T-shirt decorating (bring T-shirt); 3, hide and seek.
Clapp: 9, duck duck goose; 11, running race; 1, bubble gum blowing; 3, dodge ball.
Common: 9, board games; 11, decorate clothespins; 1, hide and seek; 3, alligator.
Coolidge: 9, finger painting; 11, Candyland; 1, nature tag; 3, talent show.
Deming: 9, funniest joke contest; 11, golf; 1, walk to Friendly's; 3, arts and crafts.
Highland: 9, cat and rat; 11, hide 'n' seek; 1, sneaker toss; 3, TV tag.
Kirvin: 9, prettiest flower contest; 11, cracker eating contest; 3, kickball.
Lebanon: 9, finger puppets; 11, Christmas tree ornaments; 1, ultimate frisbee; 3, story contest.
Morningside: 9, arts and crafts; 11, pick up park contest; 1, tumbling; 3, peanut hunt.
Pitt: 9, egg toss; 11, wonderball; 1, around the world; 3, vegetable prints.
West Memorial: 9, surprise day; 11, pillow polo; 1, arts and crafts; 3, volleyball tournament.
Wilson: 9, penny toss; 11, storytime; 1, water-balloon fight; 3, kids' choice.

8-4-88

Playground schedule

WEDNESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, make puppets, 11, bobbing for apples; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Clapp: 9, collecting spiderwebs; 11, straw painting; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Common: 9, story hour; 11, spud; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Coolidge: 9, story contest; 11, bocce ball; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Deming: 9, costume day; 11, catch a butterfly; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Highland: 9, prison ball; 11, kickball; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Kirvin: 9, spud; 11, mother may I; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Labanon: 9, card throwing; 11, egg toss; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Morningside: 9, necklace making; 11, yarn pictures; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
Pitt: 9, straw painting; 11, tissue paper collages; 1 to 4:30, car wash.
West Memorial: 9, Frisbee throw; 11, water balloon contest, 1 to 4, car wash.
Wilson: 9, nutrition, 11, Firsbee tournament; 1 to 4:30, car wash.

The car wash will be at the Big Y on West Street tomorrow from 1 to 4:30. All parks will attend.

8-9-88

Playgrounds to have end-of-season picnic

PITTSFIELD — The city's Recreation Department will hold its end-of-season picnic Friday from 11 to 4 at Wild Acres.

The event, for all youngsters in the city's playground programs, will include games and food, and will be held rain or shine.

8-23-88

Playground Arts Day to be held Friday

PITTSFIELD — The Department of Recreation will hold Pittsfield Playground Arts Day on Friday, Aug. 12 at the Common from 10 to 4.

The event will include a display of art work done by the children in the parks, and a main stage area where a variety of performances will take place.

The performers will be Shakespeare & Company, Berkshire Ballet, Strawberry Productions, storyteller Debbie Cuthbert and Yankee Notions, a folklore group.

The free event is sponsored by the Arts Lottery Council, and is open to the public.

8-7-88

Cool Dog

7-30-88

The slide in the Pittsfield Common has been enjoyed by generations of youngsters, and a few dogs. This one, vintage early 1950s, knew how to climb the ladder and slide just like the kids.

Joel Librizzi

First Street frolic

7-30-88

A youngster at the Pittsfield playground carnival grimaces as she slides on a water-covered sheet of plastic.

Playground schedule

MONDAY

Allen Heights: 9, make Easter bunnies; 11, bunny hopping races; 1, make Easter eggs; 3, Easter bonnet contest.
Clapp: 9, bulletin board; 11, charades; 1, red rover; 3, freeze tag.
Common: 9, make Easter basket; 11, jelly bean hunt; 1-3, lake day.
Coolidge: 9, egg painting; 11, Easter egg hunt; 1, crab soccer; 3, story hour.
Deming: 9, egg hunt; 11, make Easter eggs; 1, bunny pictures; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Highland: 9, Easter egg hunt; 11, sack races; 1, thumper; 3, red rover.
Kirvin: 9, paper airplane races; 11, paint eggs; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, softball.
Lebanon: 9, rabbit visit; 11, bunny hop contest; 1, Easter egg hunt; 3, jelly bean guess.;
Morningside: 9, make Easter baskets; 11, rabbit contest; 1, egg races; 3, Easter egg hunt.
Pitt: 9, color eggs; 11, make bunny masks; 1, jelly bean hunt; 3, colored egg toss.
West Memorial: 9, bulletin board; 11, Easter egg coloring; 11, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, jolleyball.
Wilson: 9, paint eggs; 11, egg hunt; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, volleyball.

TUESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, bagel breakfast; 11, play dreidel; 1, bulletin board; 3, Jewish songs sing-along.
Clapp: 9, straw painting; 11, sports and games supervisor; 1, lime-eating contest; 3, finger painting.
Common: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, make menorah; 1, make bagel people; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Coolidge: 9, swing shift; 11, spin the dreidel; 1, around the world; 3, softball.
Deming: 9, make menorah; 11, bagel for lunch; 1, spin the dreidel; 3, Jewish songs.
Highland: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, bingo; 1, ultimate Frisbee; 3, freeze tag.
Kirvin: 9, coloring contest; 11, make menorah; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, kids' choice.
Lebanon: 9, bagel people; 11, bubble contest; 1, flower pots; 3, wheelbarrow race.
Morningside: 9, make Jewish candle; 11, nutrition; 1, Jewish songs; 3, Hanukah party.
Pitt: 9, field trip to Clapp; 11, capture the flag; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, shipwreck.
West Memorial: 9, shell art; 11, Jewish Day; 1-3, lake day.
Wilson: 9, limbo tournament; 11, soccer; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, freeze tag.

8-15-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, tree decorating; 11, leaf painting; 1-3:30, bowling field trip.
Common: 9, make ornaments; 11, reindeer races; 1, letters to Santa; 3, make Santas.
Coolidge: 9, secret Santas; 11, nutrition; 1, Christmas trees; 3, Christmas carols.
Deming: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, grab bag; 1, make ornaments; 3, mistletoe.
Highland: 9, secret Santa; 11, Christmas stories; 1, Christmas party; 3, Santa Claus contest.
Kirvin: 9, reindeer races; 11, tree decorating; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, paint rocks.
Lebanon: 9, Christmas ornaments; 11, Santa laugh; 1, gift giving; 3, caroling.
Morningside: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, Christmas ornaments; 1, red, green day contest; 3, decorate park.
Pitt: 9, talk to Santa; 11, candy cane licking contest; 1, sing carols; 3, spud.
West Memorial: 9, Christmas decorations; 11, Christmas songs; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, bracelet making.
Wilson: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, nutrition tag; 1, marshmallow people; 3, softball.

8-17-88

25 Years Ago 8-23-88

Ten years of work and $1 million crossed the finish line as the 206-car Columbus Avenue municipal parking lot was officially opened. Mayor Raymond L. Haughey said the new lot and the other city lots would "bolster the economy of the downtown area."

Mrs. Charles R. Myers of Greylock Street, Lee, was the author of a new book, "A Hinterland Settlement," a story of the original settlers of Tyringham and Monterey. Proceeds from the book were to go to the Tyringham Union Church.

The 21 Pittsfield playgrounds ended their nine-week season with parties celebrated on 12 of the supervised play areas. "Circus Dav." usually the last event of the season, was replaced this year by awards night at North Junior High School.

Playground schedule

WEDNESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, charades; 11, running races; 1, water designs; 3, pizza party farewell.
Clapp: 9, baby picture day; 11, sports and games; 1, lip sync contest; 3, 20 questions.
Common: 9, finger faced puppets; 11, decorate paper airplanes; 1, egg rolling contest; 3, board games.
Coolidge: 9, nature walk; 11, sit up contest; 1, red light/green light; 3, paper plate masks.
Deming: 9, arts and crafts; 11; 3-2-1-; 1, lemonade sale; 3, clean up park.
Highland: 9, arts and crafts; 11, imitation contest; 11, home run derby; 3, capture the flag.
Kirvin: 9, clean up the park; 11, spud; 1, shoe kicking; 3, arts and crafts.
Lebanon: 9, comic book trade; 11, red rover; 1, arts and crafts; 3, crayon etching.
Morningside: 9, silent ball; 11, water balloons; 1, balloon buddies; 3, running races.
Pitt: 9, Uno tournament; 11, sock puppets; 1, sports and games; 3, ship wreck.
West Memorial: 9, bubble gum chewing contest; 11, cat and mouse game; 1, picnic day; 3, red rover.
Wilson: 9, duck duck goose; 11, kids choice; 1, sports and games; 3, people pass.

8-23-88

Playground schedule

TODAY

Allen Heights: 9, resolutions; 11, confetti making; 1, New Year's celebration; 3, shave balloons.
Clapp: 9, spud; 11, sports and games supervisor; 1, tag; 3, New Year's party.
Common: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, make confetti; 1, apple cider toast; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Coolidge: 9, home run derby; 11, volleyball; 1, New Year's festival; 3, around the world.
Deming: 9, decorate park; 11, masquerade party; 1, New Year's songs; 3, resolutions.
Highland: 9, arts and crafts; 11, resolutions; 1, New Year's party; 3, three-legged race.
Kirvin: 9, candy scramble; 11, make confetti; 1, arts and crafts; 3, kickball tournament.
Lebanon: 9, New Year's stories; 11, kick the can; 1, lip sinking; 3, obstacle course.
Morningside: 9, confetti making; 11, New Year's banners; 1-3, lake day.
Pitt: 9, potato prints; 11, t-ball; 1, street hockey; 3, dragon's tail.
West Memorial: 9, slip-n-slide; 11, New Year's celebration; 1, TV tag; 3, resolutions.
Wilson: 9, make resolutions; 11, board games; 1, sports and games; 3, TV tag.

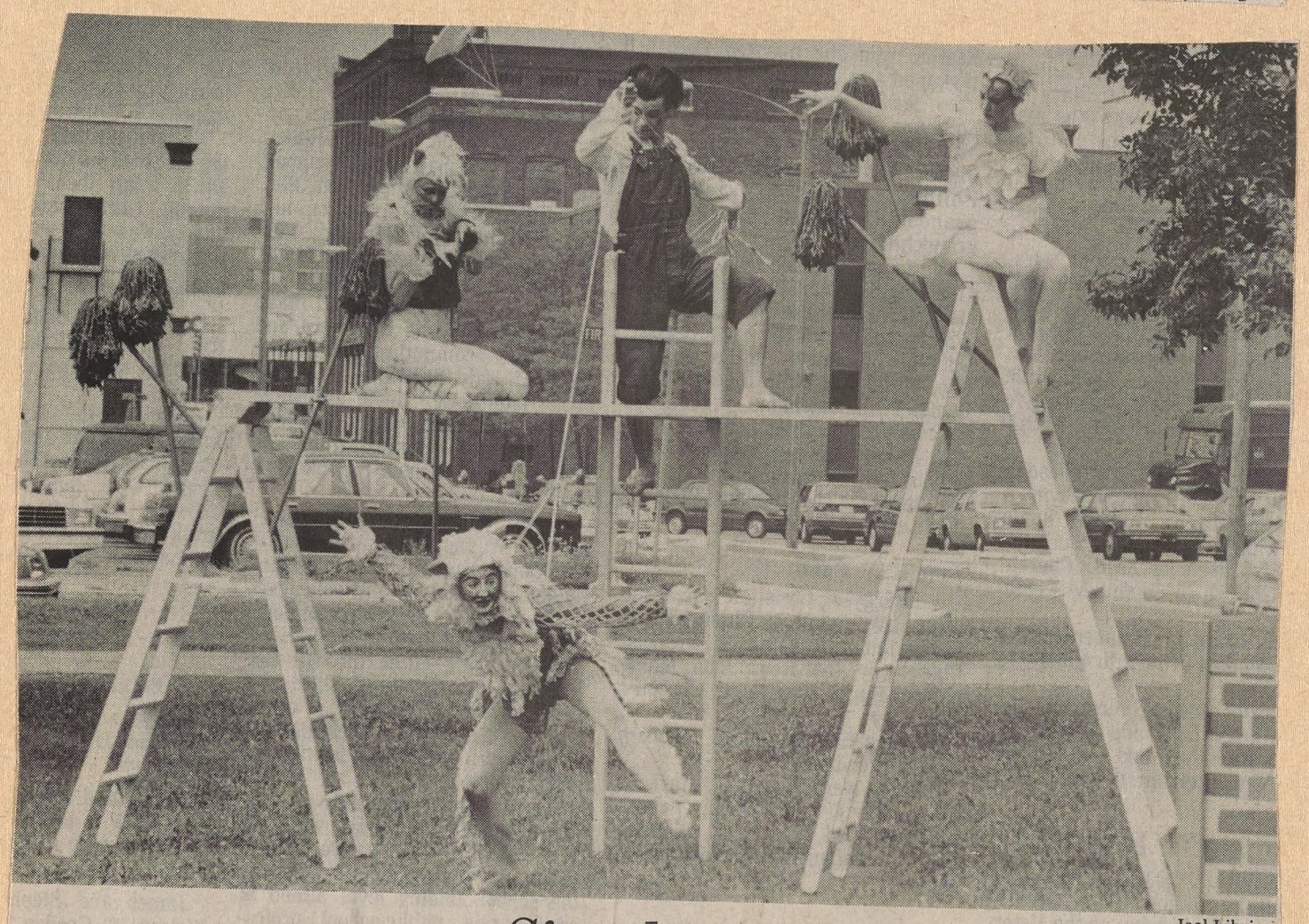
8-19-88

8-22-88

Playground schedule

TUESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, soccer relays; 11, blob; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, cookies and juice.
Clapp: 9, swinging contest; 11, bubble gum blowing contest; 1, clean-up scavenger hunt; 3, pet rocks.
Common: 9, rid litter; 11, peanut people; 1, quiet contest; 3, funny face contest.
Coolidge: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, steal the bacon; 1, cat and rat; 3, balloon people.
Deming: 9, home run derby; 11, sports and games supervisor; 1, show and tell; 3, walk to Friendly's.
Highland: 9, three-legged race; 11, thumper; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, clean-up time.
Kirvin: 9, hide and seek; 11, little step/big step; 1, mother may I; 3, basketball.
Lebanon: 9, silent ball; 11, badminton; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, marble shooting.
Morningside: 9, lemon-eating contest; 11, arts and crafts supervisor; 1, marshmallow men; 3, string painting.
Pitt: 9, cat and rat; 11, Chinese chess; 1, water-balloon fight; 3, twister.
West Memorial: 9, prison ball; 11, football; 1, coloring contest; 3, water-balloon toss.
Wilson: 9, story time; 11, wonderball; 1, cat and rat; 3, home run derby.



Joel Librizzi

Simple set

Ladders and plank were all the Berkshire Ballet needed in addition to costumes and enthusiasm to stage "Peter and the Wolf" at the Common in Pittsfield for Playground Arts Day.

8-13-88

8-24-88

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, volleyball; 11, bubble gum contest; 1, shirt signing farewell; 3, ice cream walk.
Clapp: 9, clean out box; 11, keep away; 1, pin the tail on Mary Beth; 3, hide and seek.
Common: 9, soccer; 11, kids story time; 1, relay races; 3, jump rope contest.
Coolidge: 9, ship wreck; 11, the blob; 1, follow the leader; 3, rock painting.
Deming: 9, 50s day; 11, farewell lunch day; 1, mother may I; 3, friendship bracelets.
Highland: 9, around the world; 11, lip sinc contest; 1, trivial pursuit; 3, clue.
Kirvin: 9, keep cool contest; 11, arts and crafts; 1, run the bases; 3, brook trip.
Lebanon: 9, ant farm; 11, pie eating; 1, stay alive; 3, balloon release.
Morningside: 9, friendship bracelets; 11, ultimate frisbee; 1, paper chains; 3, stuffed animal contest.
Pitt: 9, win, lose or draw; 11, kick ball; 1, visit to King Cone; 3, clean up the box.
West Memorial: 9, farewell game; 11, carroms tournament; 1, goodbye celebration; 3, lollipop licking contest.
Wilson: 9, Simon says; 11, kick the can; 1, graveyard; 3, TV tag.

Playground schedule

7-19-88

TUESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, 4 leaf clover contest; 11, rock painting; 1 to 3, lake day.
Clapp: 9, hide and seek; 11, cat and rat; 1, make masks; 3, water time.
Common: 9, make Irish flag; 11, 4 leaf clover hunt; 1, green Kool-aid sale; 3, swinging contest.
Coolidge: 9, Irish costumes; 11, baby picture contest; 1, sports and games; 3, kick the can.
Deming: 9, arts and crafts; 11, dodge ball; 1, story time; 3, Irish jig.
Highland: 9, Irish jig; 11, Irish songs; 1, coloring contest; 3, licorice chew.
Kirvin: 9, green day; 11, lollipop licking contest; 1, straw painting; 3, arts and crafts.
Lebanon: 9, dress in green; 11, 4 leaf clover hunt; 1, arts and crafts; 3, show and tell.
Morningside: 9, make 4 leaf clovers; 11, nutrition; 1, sports and games; 3, leprechaun story.
Pitt: 9, sports and games; 11, 4 leaf clover hunt; 1, Irish flag; 3, Irish story time.
West Memorial: 9, green contest; 11, relay races; 1, pick up park contest; 3, licorice chewing contest.
Wilson: 9, sports and games; 11, make rice pictures; 1, red light/green light; 3, wonder ball.

Looking Back

50 Years Ago

Over 300 Pittsfield children regretfully bade the summer goodbye as they gathered at the Common and the Springside Playground to compete for honors in all phases of activities conducted on the playgrounds during the season. Softball games, field races, an amateur show and swimming races attracted entrants from all parks.

9-1-88

Playground schedule

MONDAY

Allen Heights: 9, run the bases; 11, red rover; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, egg toss.
Clapp: 9, frisbee; 11, arts and crafts supervisor; 1, around the world; 3 show and tell.
Common: 9, 4 square; 11, show and tell; 1, poster contest; 3, water-balloon toss.
Coolidge: 9, blind mans bluff; 11, sports and games; 1, rap contest; 3, obstacle course.
Deming: 9, decorate bulletin board; 11, hide and seek; 1, everyones birthday; 3, prison ball.
Highland: 9, scavenger hunt; 11, horse; 1, monopoly tournament; 3, castle making.
Kirvin: 9, simon says; 11, make puppets; 1, kids choice; 3, spud.
Lebanon: 9, magic garden; 11, duck duck goose; 1-4 lake day.
Morningside: 9, silent ball; 11, decorate bulletin board; 1, sports and games; 3, hot potato.
Pitt: 9, clean up park; 11, 4 square; 1, arts and crafts; 3, rolley polley.
Wilson: 9, red rover; 11, kick the shoe; 1, arts and crafts; 3, dodgeball.
West Memorial: 9, decorate bulletin board; 11, soccer; 1, nature hunt; 3, final countdown.

8-20-88

Playground schedule

FRIDAY

Allen Heights: 9, vegetable prints; 11, make turtles; 1, birthday celebrations; 3, thumper.
Clapp: 9, Frisbee; 11, prison ball; 1, dodge ball; 3, paper airplanes.
Common: 9, make French flag; 11, stick around game; 1, hide and seek; 3, make bird feeders.
Coolidge: 9, Eiffel Tower; 11, soccer; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, alphabet game.
Deming: 9, lollipop-licking contest; 11, cracker whistling; 1, painting of Eiffel Tower; 3, tag.
Highland: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, French bread making; 1, water gun fight; 3, clean up park.
Kirvin: 9, peanut hunt; 11, marshmallow races; 1, egg toss; 3, arts and crafts supervisor.
Lebanon: 9, make French flags; 11, keep away; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, bulletin board.
Morningside: 9, draw the Eiffel Tower; 11, talk about the French; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, prison ball.
Pitt: 9, wear red, white and blue; 11, make French dressing; 1, shoe throwing contest; 3, clue tournament.
West Memorial: 9, talent show; 11, stuffed animal contest; 1, cookie contest; 3, water balloon toss.
Wilson: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, charades; 1, red light/green light; 3, softball.

7/22/88

Leslie Noyes

Floating a question

8-26-88

Dawn Schafer of Pittsfield marks the sky over the Common with her Trlby stunt kite.

Joel Librizzi

Going bats

7-6-88

Youngsters in the Rip-City Baseball Camp sponsored by the Boys Club practice batting swing — minus the bats — at the Common on First Street. They are following example of former Pittsfield baseball coach George "Buddy" Pellerin. Mark Reynolds also works with the kids.

Playground schedule

THURSDAY

Allen Heights: 9, whiffle ball; 11, blob; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, Siamese tag.
Clapp: 9, wonder ball; 11, dodge ball; 1, prison ball; 3, sports and games supervisor.
Common: 9, make African flag; 11, African blind man's bluff; 1, sports and games supervisor; 3, alligator.
Coolidge: 9, arts and crafts supervisor; 11, nutrition; 1, African costume ball; 3, checker tournament.
Deming: 9, self portraits; 11, African dance; 1, crab soccer; 3, African trivia.
Highland: 9, African folk songs; 11, safari hunt; 1, win, loose or draw; 3, volleyball tournament.
Kirvin: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, relay races; 1, track meet; 3, drawing contest.
Lebanon: 9, sports and games supervisor; 11, unusual item collection; 1, ant hunt; 3, charades.
Morningside: 9, talk about Africans; 11, arts and crafts supervisor; 1, African music; 3, cat and rat.
Pitt: 9, thumper; 11, field trip to Coolidge; 1, paper flowers; 3, man, monkey, crab, rabbit.
West Memorial: 9, beads; 11, prison ball; 1, arts and crafts supervisor; 3, candy scramble.
Wilson: 9, make African flag; 11, 3-legged race; 1, water balloon toss; 3, story time.

7-14-88

Playground schedule

MONDAY

Allen Heights: 9, sports and games; 11, clean up scavenger hunt; 1, dance contest; 3, draw your favorite cartoon.
Clapp: 9, spud; 11, peanut hunt; 1, arts and crafts; 3, freckle contest.
Common: 9, arts and crafts; 11, leaf pictures; 1, hokey pokey; 3, sing-along.
Coolidge: 9, litter bug posters; 11, water balloon toss; 1, cartoon contest; 3, softball.
Deming: 9, bulletin board; 11, clean up park; 1, clean up box; 3, sports and games.
Highland: 9, around the world; 11, water tag; 1, ultimate frisbee; 3, straw painting.
Kirvin: 9, paint balloons; 11, wash the table; 1, leaf painting; 3, baseball.
Lebanon: 9, bulletin board; 11, tissue flowers; 1, treasure hunt; 3, piggy bank.
Morningside: 9, bulletin board; 11, swinging contest; 1 to 3, lake day.
Pitt: 9, demerits; 11, skin the snake; 1, arts and crafts; 3, volleyball.
West Memorial: 9, jump rope contest; 11, garbage scramble; 1, sports and games; 3, king and queen contest.
Wilson: 9, limbo; 11, storytime; 1, blob; 3, daily clean up.

7-23-88

Playground schedule

TUESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, live or stuffed animal contest; 11, soap bubble contest; 1, arts and crafts; 3, clean up your neighborhood race.
Clapp: 9, frisbee; 11, board games; 1, prison ball; 3, square.
Common: 9, stone collecting; 11, litter bug relay; 1, sports and games; 3, paper plate hats.
Coolidge: 9, around the world; 11, arts and crafts; 1, scavenger clean up; 3, garbage alphabet game.
Deming: 9, don't litter posters; 11, collect cans; 1 to 3, lake day.
Highland: 9, sports and games; 11, clean up contest; 1, hide and seek; 3, club snatch.
Kirvin: 9, bulletin board; 11, relay races; 1, sports and games; 3, volleyball.
Lebanon: 9, make bag puppets; 11, finger paints; 1, explore with ranger Ken; 3, walking race.
Morningside: 9, carroms tournament; 11, nutrition; 1, arts and crafts; 3, penny hunt.
Pitt: 9, bingo; 11, visit Coolidge; 1, home run derby; 3, twister.
West Memorial: 9, prison ball; 11, garbage collection contest; 1, peanut hunt; 3, who is the cleanest competition?
Wilson: 9, arts and crafts; 11, kick the shoe contest; 1, freeze tag; 3, daily clean up.

7-25-88

Playground schedule

WEDNESDAY

Allen Heights: 9, sports and games; 11, Shakespeare & Company at Morningside Community School; 1, marshmallow men; 3, crayon design.
Clapp: 9, nature walk; 11, arts and crafts; 2, Shakespeare & Company at Deming; 3, cookies and juice.
Common: 9, arts and crafts; 11, Shakespeare & Company at Morningside Community School; 1, make pictures with spaghetti; 3, spaghetti eating contest.
Coolidge: 9, Italy facts; 11, dance contest; 1, Italian bocce; 3, Pictionary.
Deming: 9, soccer; 11, pine cone hunt; 2, Shakespeare & Company; 3, capture the flag.
Highland: 9, soccer; 11, Trivial Pursuit; 1, sports and games; 3, four square.
Kirvin: 9, Chutes and Ladders; 11, checkers; 2, Shakespeare & Company at Deming; 3, raft races.
Lebanon: 9, jump rope contest; 11, wheelbarrow races; 2, Shakespeare & Company at Deming; 3, backwards clothes.
Morningside: 9, talk about Italian food; 11, Shakespeare & Company; 1, try some Italian cookies; 3, dodge ball.
Pitt: 9, red rover; 11, look at Italian pictures; 1, arts and crafts; 3, macaroni designs.
West Memorial: 9, apple bite; 11, Shakespeare & Company at Morningside Community School; 1 to 3, lake day.
Wilson: 9, blob; 11, nutrition; 1, arts and crafts; 3, football.

7-20-88

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SOFTBALL MEETING: The Berkshire County Slow Pitch Softball League has scheduled its first organizational meeting Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Springside House, 874 North St. Agenda items will include 1987 financial results, 1988 entry fee projections, 1988 tournaments, raffle plans, billboard advertising, rules changes, Softball Complex improvements, player contracts, uniform rules, ball selection and league bylaws.

All teams planning to participate in the 1988 league should send a representative. Future meetings are planned March 16 and March 30 at 6:30 at Springside House. 3/1/88

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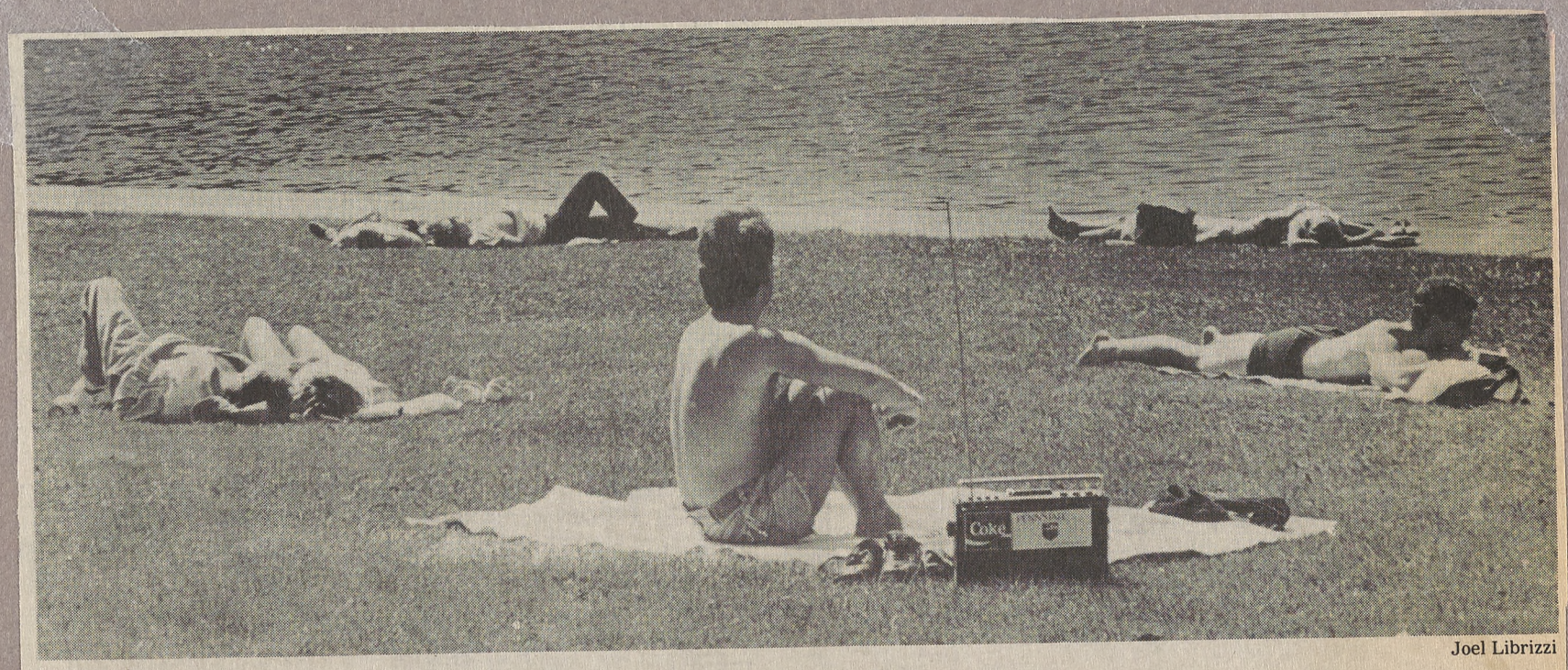
UMPIRE MEETING: A meeting has been scheduled Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Springside House, 874 North St., for anyone interested in becoming an Amateur Softball Association umpire in 1988. Berkshire County umpire-in-chief Ed Ladley of Pittsfield will conduct the meeting. 3/17/88



Joel Librizzi

A place in the sun

After enduring the long stretch of dreary, chilly weather, sunbathers stretch out on the lawn at Pontoosuc Lake. 5/10/88

efore difficult were all reschen

170.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL: The Pittsfield Junior Football League has scheduled registration for the 1988 season Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 to noon at the Department of Recreation office, 874 North St.

A $10 equipment fee must be paid at registration. Tryouts are scheduled to begin Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. at the First Street Common.

The league, for Pittsfield residents ages 10 to 13, is scheduled to begin Sept. 17 for the B squad (ages 10 and 11) at 10 a.m. at Reid Middle School, and Sept. 18 for the A squad (ages 12 and 13) at Wahconah Park.

All candidates must receive a medical waiver from a family physician. Anyone interested in coaching should contact Recreation Director John Marchesi at the Department of Recreation.

8-7-88

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JUNIOR FOOTBALL: The Pittsfield Junior Football League has extended its registrations for new candidates, ages nine through 13.

Those interested can register at the Department of Recreation office, 874 North St., between the hours of 9 and 5. Only Pittsfield residents can apply, and tryouts will begin Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Common on First Street. For more information, contact the Recreation Department.

8-16-88

Browns, Rams win shutouts in Junior Football openers

PITTSFIELD — A pair of shutout victories marked yesterday's opening day of the Pittsfield Junior Football League at Wahconah Park. The Browns downed the Lions 14-0 while the Rams defeated the defending league champion Giants 6-0.

For the Browns, Matt Parise scored a pair of touchdowns on runs of three and two yards. Tom Hickey added a two-point conversion for the final score. Defensively, Jason Lussier of the Browns and Shaun Grady of the Lions were standouts.

The Rams got the game's only score when Sophan Ninh took a pitchout and ran four yards for the touchdown. The score had been set up by Ninh, who had rambled 30 yards to the Giants' five-yard line.

In the taut defensive struggle, the Rams' Alonzo Hanna and the Giants' John Goodnow were among the defensive standouts.

9-19-88

Area Sports

Pittsfield Junior Football ticket sale scheduled Sunday

TICKET SALE: The Pittsfield Junior Football League has scheduled its annual door-to-door season ticket sale Sunday starting at 10 a.m. All league players and coaches will participate in the sale. All league players must wear football jerseys during the ticket drive. Parents wishing to help should report to the Common on First Street at 9:30 a.m.

Pittsfield Junior Football

Giants deal Rams 1st loss

PITTSFIELD — The Giants upset the previously unbeaten Rams 14-6 and the Lions blanked the Browns 8-0 yesterday in Pittsfield Junior Football League action at Wahconah Park.

Josh Smith recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff, and Mike McHugh followed with a 1-yard touchdown plunge and two-point conversion to spark the Giants. Matt Freudenberg added a 13-yard scoring run for the Giants. Sophan Nhim broke three tackles and ran 43 yards for the Rams' touchdown. The Giants' Jabari Powell and the Rams' Jason O'Brien were defensive standouts.

Matt Fiorini broke away for a 43-yard run, then scored on a 4-yard touchdown run three plays later in the first quarter to give the Lions their winning play. Bill Landers added the two-point conversion. Top defensive players were Darrell Clairmont for the Lions and Jim Quinlan for the Browns.

10-10-88

Youth football

Lions, Rams win Pittsfield league tilts

The Lions defeated the Giants 8-6 and the Rams downed the Browns 16-14 in Pittsfield Junior Football League play Sunday at Wahconah Park.

Bill Lander scored a touchdown and two point conversion to lead the Lions. The Giants touchdown came on an 11-yard pass from Matt McHugh to Matt Freudenberg. The score was set up by Jabari Powell's fumble recovery.

Chris Boino of the Giants and Jim Amburn of the Lions were the defensive standouts.

Alonzo Hanna scored two second half touchdowns on runs of 5 and 65 yards and added a two-point conversion in the Rams win. Sophan Nhim added the other conversion. The Browns Matt Parise scored two touchdowns on runs of 4 and 70 yards. Dave LaDoucher added a conversion.

The Rams Tony Mogavero and the Browns Jason Lussier were the top defensive performers.

9-27-88

Pittsfield Junior Football

10-4-88

Rams boost record to 3-0

PITTSFIELD — The Rams lifted their record to 3-0 with a 6-2 win over the Lions, and the Giants blanked the Browns 6-0 Sunday in Pittsfield Junior Football League action.

Tom Barnaby recovered a fumble and Sophan Nhim followed with a 22-yard touchdown run to lead the Rams to their victory. The Lions scored when Pat Mickle tackled the Rams' quarterback in the end zone. The safety was set up when Jim Amburns blasted a 64-yard punt that settled on the Rams' 1-yard line. Defensive standouts were Dave LaDouceur for the Rams and Bill Landers for the Lions.

Matt Freudenberg scored on a 19-yard end sweep in the second quarter to lift the Giants to their victory. The Giants' Chris Casuscelli and the Browns' Mark McKinney were standouts in a game dominated by defense.

Youth football

Rams, Giants win Wahconah Park tilts

PITTSFIELD — Sophan Nhim scored two touchdowns on runs of 6 and 73 yards to lead the first-place Rams over the Browns 28-0 yesterday in the Pittsfield Junior Football League at Wahconah Park.

Alonzo Hanna accounted for 10 of the Rams other points on a 3-yard run and a pair of conversions. Jason Barnaby scored the final touchdown on a 4-yard pass from Dave LaDouceur.

Mike McHugh scored on a 2-yard plunge with less than a minute left to give the Giants a 16-12 win over the Lions in the second game.

Shaun Penna's fumble recovery set up the game-winner. McHugh also added a conversion run. Matt Freudenberg scored the Giants' other points on a 43-yard run and conversion.

Bill Lander scored both the Lions' touchdowns, one on a fumble recovery in the end zone and the other on a 2-yard run.

10-17-88

Giants, Rams share junior grid crown

PITTSFIELD — The Giants closed out their Pittsfield Junior Football League season yesterday with a 20-0 victory over the Browns, and the triumph earned them a share of the league championship.

Matt Freudenberg scored a pair of touchdowns to spark the Giants, who finished with a record of 4-2, while Bill Landers' touchdown run with a minute remaining enabled the Lions to score a 14-8 upset victory over the Rams, who also ended their slate at 4-2. The win gave the Lions a final record of 3-3. The Browns finished at 1-5.

Landers scored from 3 yards out to lift the Lions. Matt Fiorini had scored the Lions' earlier touchdown on an 8-yard run and added the two-point conversion. Alonzo Hanna scored on an 8-yard sweep for the Browns, then added the conversion.

Freudenberg tallied on runs of 1 and 14 yards to carry the Giants. Mike McHugh rounded out the Giants' scoring with a 2-yard run and a two-point conversion.

10-24-88

172.

LITTLE LEAGUE: Registration for Pittsfield's Little League baseball program will be held this Saturday, and Monday, April 4. Saturday's registration is from 10 until noon, with Monday's registration from 6 to 8 p.m. 3/31/88

New candidates for the North League should register at the Peck's Road Fire Station, South League candidates at the Holmes Road station and players for the West League should register at the West Housatonic Street Fire Station.

Youngsters at least 9 years old, but not 13 on or before Aug. 1, are eligible to play. Each player will be assessed $5 to help defray the league's operating costs.

Righi leads City Savings

In South Little League action, Tom Righi belted two home runs and had a pair of doubles as City Savings downed East Side Pizza 15-8.

Mike Cimini added a home run and a double and Matt Donovan contributed two singles for the Bankers. Chattin Ricchi and Cameron Collins each had a single and double for East Side.

Matt Rice pounded out three singles and Josh Smith had a home run and single, leading the Italian-American Club to a 15-5 romp past Tank Shop. Mark Berube added a single and double for Italian-American Club, while Dario Arace and Dave Brahmer each had an RBI double for Tank Shop.

Jeff Harte had a pair of hits and Dennis Strizzi knocked in three runs as Burger King posted a 5-2 win over Italian-American Club. Berube led the Italian-American Club with a single and double. 6/28/88

Youth baseball roundup

Cimini's home run sparks City Savings

Mike Cimini cracked a two-run homer in the fifth inning to give City Savings Bank a 2-1 win over the Italian-American Club in the Pittsfield South Little League.

Winning pitcher Tom Righi added a single and double for City Savings, while John Vincent had a single, double and knocked in the only run for the Italian-American Club.

In other South action, Josh Smith had four hits, including two doubles, and Scott Peetros added two doubles and a triple, leading the Italian-Amnerican Club to a 16-3 romp past Teo's. Mark Berube fired a four-hitter to get the pitching win.

Brett Kamienski threw a one-hitter and Cameron Collins drove in three runs with a homer and a single as East Side Pizza whipped Burger King 7-3. Kamienski and Marc Pictrowski each added a single, double and two RBI.

Ivan Olchowski banged out four hits and Dan Cohn connected for a double and a home run as Virgilio's Construction outslugged Stevenson's Insurance 10-9. Jeff French racked up 10 strikeouts to get the pitching win, while Tim Scott had three hits for Stevenson's.

John Vanassa tossed a three-hitter and Dario Arace and Eric Kirk each had a pair of singles to lead Tank Shop past City Savings by a 12-1 count. Brian Cimini delivered an RBI single for the Bankers.

Kamienski pounded out three singles and a double as East Side Pizza downed Stevenson's 12-2. Collins had a double and two singles in support of winning pitcher David Fields.

Paul Grover earned the pitching win and Dennis Strizzi banged out a pair of hits as Burger King topped Virgilio's 11-6. Jeff French had a single, double and two RBI for the losers.

North Little League

Steve Pero's two-out triple capped a five-run sixth inning that boosted the Fire Department to an 18-17 win over Dave's Sporting Goods in the Pittsfield North Little League.

Pero had two other hits for the Firemen, while Kevin Sherman added two hits and four RBI. Chris Casuscelli, Tim Kearns and Dale Phelps homered for Dave's. Casuscelli and Kearns had four and three hits, respectively.

Dave Ferguson fired a three-hitter while Mike Parise delivered a triple and two singles as Besse-Clarke rolled past the Elks 10-1. Dave Savino also had three hits for Besse's.

A three-hit effort by Josh Baker boosted the Elks to a 12-9 triumph over Colt Insurance. Josh Smith added two hits for the Elks, while Keith Levy picked up the pitching win. Chris Campoli had two hits and three RBI for Colt.

A triple by Baker also sparked a six-run, seventh-inning rally that lifted the Elks to a 12-6 triumph over Dave's. Levy again earned the mound win, while Phelps had three hits and three RBI for Dave's.

Shawn Wood pounded out three hits, including a home run as the Police Department slipped past Colt Insurance 8-6. Ben Cowell was the winning pitcher. Alan Codding and Pat Tuohy each had a pair of hits for Colt. 5/17/88

Youth baseball roundup

Two hurlers combine for West LL no-hitter

Joel Mullett and Jerome DelSoldato combined to pitch a no-hitter in the Pittsfield West Little League as their Civitan team breezed to a 17-1 win over Friendly Restaurant.

Mullett also helped the cause with a home run.

In other West action, home runs by Scott Filiault sparked Itam to a pair of victories in the Pittsfield West Little League.

Filiault had three hits including a homer as Itam outslugged J. Colvin Glass 21-16, and homered in Itam's 17-9 triumph over Friendly. Mike Kelly added two hits in the win over Friendly, while Jerry Broderick pounded out three hits in a losing cause for Colvin's.

A four-hit effort by Micah Powell helped lift Itam to a 20-7 triumph over Jimmy's Restuarant, while Powell's home run sparked Itam to a 17-2 romp over Civitan.

Jason Murray threw a three-hitter as Itam defeated Civitan 10-3, while Mike Eastland pitched the shutout as Parkside Restaurant downed J. Colvin Glass 15-0.

Eastland also boosted Parkside to a pair of victories offensive, banging out two hits including a home run in an 11-4 win over Friendly and adding a pair of hits as his team downed Friendly by an 8-2 count.

Mark Spaniol pounded out four hits and Jason Murray had three as Itam outlasted Parkside 14-7, while Dan McCue's three hits carried J. Colvin Glass to a 12-9 triumph over Civitan.

A three-hit performance by Bryan Carlo helped boost Parkside to an 11-10 win over Civitan, while two doubles by Bryan Furlong sparked Jimmy's Restaurant to a 16-10 victory over J. Colvin Glass. 5/26/88

West Little League

Winning pitcher Jason Roy helped his own cause with a pair of hits as Friendly Ice Cream downed Jimmy's Restaurant 11-9 in the Pittsfield West Little League. Dave Bilodeau banged out three hits to lead Jimmy's.

Bilodeau gained the win on the mound while Mike Stevens and Brian Miceli each had two hits, leading Jimmy's in a 12-4 triumph over J. Colvin Glass. Mike Eastland rapped out two hits and gained the pitching victory as Parkside ripped Jimmy's 18-3.

Jason Santolin helped himself to a pair of hits and hurled Friendly's to an 11-5 triumph over Colvin's, and a two-hit effort by Matt Travis supported winning pitcher Bryan Carlo as Parkside nipped Civitan 11-10. 5/30/88

Corrections

John Garzone is a coach in the Pittsfield West Little League but has never been a member of the board of directors and was erroneously named in a 1985 court action against the league. He was incorrectly identified as a former board member in a story in yesterday's Eagle. 10-22-88

Little League tournament

The Berkshire County Little League tournament is scheduled to get under way Monday with two games, Adams at Lanesboro and Pittsfield South at Dalton. The tournament continues with four games Wednesday, including Williamstown at Pittsfield West, Great Barrington at Lee, Cheshire at the Adams-Lanesboro winner and Pittsfield North at the Dalton-Pittsfield South winner.

The semifinals are scheduled July 22, with the final July 25. All games start at 6 p.m. 7-14-88

Youth baseball

Little League candy sale slated in Pittsfield Sunday

PITTSFIELD — The Pittsfield Little League's annual fund-raising candy sale is scheduled Sunday, with uniformed players going door to door throughout the city during the day.

All proceeds will be used to defray the costs of the three Pittsfield leagues. All players in the North, South and West leagues are asked to report at their assigned times in uniform.

North Little League

Besse-Clarke won two recent games in the Pittsfield North Little League, 16-4 over Colt Insurance and 13-4 over Dave's Sporting Goods.

John Pierce, Paul Tropeano and Dave Ferguson had two hits each against Colt, and Dan DelGallo and Jason Burke had three apiece against Dave's, which got two from Chris Casuscelli. Jeff Kellar was the winning pitcher in both games.

In other games, Scott Keppel, Steve Pero and winning pitcher Kevin Sherman had two hits each as Fire Department edged Police Department 12-11 and Josh Smith had three hits and Scott Sulock two as the Elks won 10-5 over the Police. For the Police, Shawn Wood had three hits, including a grand slam, and Matt Bashara two hits against the Elks. Wood and Mike LaForrest had two each against the Fire Department.

South Little League

City Savings Bank, East Side Pizza and Tank Shop each won two recent South Little League games.

Tom Righi had three hits and Jeff Hiltpold two as City Savings won 26-5 over Teo's, and Jon Zolkowski struck out 15 and Mike Cimini belted a grand slam, two doubles and a single in City Savings' 19-5 victory over Virgilio's. Justin Cleveland and Mike Crosier each had two hits for Teo's, and Jason Kilmer two hits and two RBI for Virgilio's.

Winning pitcher Brett Kamienski had three hits, Mike Dolan three RBI and David Farrell and Mark Pictrowski two hits each as East Side defeated Virgilio's 15-2. Kamienski got another win and Brendan Ryan drove in two runs in East Side's 4-1 win over Teo's.

Tank Shop got two hits from Dave Brahmer and three RBI from Dario Arace in a 16-15 win over Italian-American Club, which got a double, single and three RBI from Josh Smith. Brahmer had three hits and Mike DiCenzo got the win as Tank Shop won 19-13 over Burger King, which got two hits and two RBI from Mark Vincelette and Matt Maiorano.

In other games, winning pitcher Josh Smith pitched a two-hitter and had two hits and two RBI and John Vincent three hits and three RBI as Italian-American Club beat Stevenson's 17-7; and Paul Grover had a homer, double and three singles and Jeff Harke three hits and two RBI as Burger King beat Stevenson's 18-6. Shaun Touhey had two hits in the loss to Burger King.

6/2/88

South Little League

The Pittsfield South Little League has named its all-star team for the tournament season. South is the defending Berkshire County champion.

Team members include: Mike Cimini, James Ruberto and Tom Righi of City Savings; Brett Kamienski, Brendon Ryan and Cameron Collins of East Side Pizza; Josh Smith and John Vincent of the Italian-American Club; Dennis Strizzi and Tyrone Lawless of Burger King; Jeff French of Virgilio's; Mark Mazzeo of Teo's; Jack Vanesse of Tank Shop; and Tim Goodnow of Stevenson.

The team will be managed by Brian Jones. Walt Pictrowski will serve as coach.

6/28/88

Jimmy's wins West title

PITTSFIELD — Winning pitcher David Bilodeau hit a three-run homer and Mike Stevens added three hits last night as Jimmy's Restaurant won the championship of the West Little League with a 5-2 win over Parkside Restaurant.

Parkside had won the league's first-half title and Jimmy's was the second-half champion.

For Parkside, Brian Carlo had two hits and Mike Eastland took the loss.

8-3-88

Little League

Besse's stays unbeaten

PITTSFIELD — Besse-Clarke defeated the Pittsfield Fire Department 10-9 in a battle of North Little League unbeaten teams.

Besse scored three unearned runs in the fifth inning, making a winner of pitcher Dan Belot. Jeff Kellar had three hits for the winners, while Mark Handy had two hits, including a bases-loaded double for the Fire Department.

The firefighters team had remained unbeaten thanks to Kevin Sherman's single with two outs and the bases loaded that broke a 5-5 tie and gave the Fire Department a seven-inning 8-5 win over the Elks. Sherman had three hits for the Fire Department, while Elks' player Shane Harrington had two hits.

Besse defeated the Police Department 11-2, as a four-run fifth inning broke open a close game. Kellar and Dave Ferguson each had two hits, as did Shawn Wood for the police team.

In other action, Nathan Backer had four hits in Colt Insurance's 22-8 win over the Elks. Keith Levy had three hits, including two doubles, for the Elks.

Kevin Sherman's sacrifice fly drove in the winning run for the Fire Department in its 14-13 win over Dave's Sporting Goods. Sherman had four RBI for the game. Tim Kearns had a triple and a home run while Chris Casuscelli had a double and a home run for Dave's

Besse-Clarke defeated the Elks 15-1, as Paul Tropeano and Kellar each had three hits.

South Little League

Winning pitcher Chad Meunier helped his own cause with a single and double as City Savings defeated Teo's 12-7. Jon Zolkowski also had a single and double for CSB. Mark Mazzeo had two singles and a double for Teo's.

Strizzi banged out three singles and Paul Grover knocked in a pair of runs with a single and two doubles, lifting Burger King to a 14-2 win over Stevenson Insurance. Tim Latini also helped the Burger King cause with a double and single.

Pat Lange earned the mound win and knocked in two runs as Stevenson's downed Tank Shop by a 12-6 count. Tim Goodnow added two hits for Stevenson's. Jack Vanesse had a pair of hits for Tank Shop.

Mike Crosier hammered out a single, double and triple as Teo's outgunned Virgilio's 15-11. Mazzeo added three hits and two RBI for the winners, while Rob Mack drove in two runs with a single and double. Ivan Olchowski had a single and two doubles for Virgilio's.

South Little League

East Side Pizza and Teo's each posted two recent victories in the South Little League.

Mike Doolan's sacrifice bunt scored the winning run and Cameron Collins had tw hits and two RBI as East Side won 6-5 over Italian American Club, which got two hits each from John Vincent and Josh Smith. David Fields struck out 12, Mike Doyle had two hits and three RBI and Andy Herman and Marc Pictrowski each had two RBI as East Side won 14-3 over Tank Shop.

Bob Mack drove in five runs with a homer, double and single and Mark Mazzeo had two hits as Teo's won 14-13 over Burger King, which got two hits and three RBI from Matt Miorano and two hits each from Dave Farkas and Frank Scago. Mazzeo also had two hits in Teo's 10-6 win over Stevenson's, which got two hits each from Tim Scott and Pat Lange.

In other games, Steve Quadrozzi struck out 13, Josh Smith had four RBI, Mark Berube a homer and three RBI and Matt Rice three hits as Italian American Club won 15-0 over Virgilio's; Dario Arace drove in six runs with two doubles, a triple and single and Dave Brahmer had two hits and three RBI as Tank Shop won 31-7 over Virgilio's; and Tom Righi drove in six runs with a homer, double and three singles, Mike Cimini had three RBI with a single and homer and Brian Cimini had two hits as City Savings Bank won 21-12 over Burger King.

For Burger King, Paul Grover had a single, homer and four RBI, Tyrone Lawless a double, two singles and four RBI and Tim Latini and Jeff Harte two hits each. In Virgilio's loss to Tank Shop, Tim Hannigan had two doubles and John Duda three hits and two RBI.

7-13-88

through Friday.

The league will include divisions for both high school players and an unlimited age category.

Anyone may register a team should do so by forwarding team rosters and a representative's phone number to league director Ed Ladley at his home on Brown Street in Pittsfield. Anyone interested in assisting the league as an official or scorekeeper may also contact Ladley.

The league is scheduled to begin play next week.

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6/30/88

Rains change Little League tourney slate

Yesterday's rains forced the postponement of the continuation of a game in the Berkshire County Little League tournament, and the rainout has caused a couple of other changes in the slate.

The game between Williamstown and Pittsfield West, suspended by darkness with the score tied 8-8 after six innings on Wednesday, will now be resumed tonight at 6 at Clapp Park.

Tonight was to be the date of the semifinals, and one of those will be played as scheduled, with Dalton-Hinsdale hosting Lee at 6 at the Hinsdale field. The other semifinal, matching Cheshire against the West-Williamstown winner, is now slated for toorrow, also at 6, at Cheshire.

The finals are scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, with the county champion to move on to state tournament play.

7-22-88

Youth baseball roundup

Peterson gives Stevenson's extra-inning win

Ryan Peterson run-scoring single in the seventh inning broke a 6-6 tie and gave Stevenson Insurance to a 7-6 win over Virgilio Construction in the Pittsfield South Little League.

Shaun Tuohey earned the victory on the mound for Stevenson's, while Jeff French had two RBI for Virgilio's.

In other South action, Josh Smith knocked in four runs with a single, double and triple as the Italian-American Club rolled past Burger King 21-2. Scott Peetros added a double and two RBI for the winners. Marc Vincelettte's double was the big hit of the game for Burger King.

Brendan Ryan drove home a pair of runs with a single and double as East Side Pizza downed City Savings Bank by a 9-2 count. Winning pitcher Brett Kamienski, who struck out 12, added two hits and an RBI for East Side offensively.

Chris Maniatis gained the pitching win while Mike DiCenzo had two hits and two RBI, leading Tank Shop to a 10-9 victory over Stevenson's. Tom Goodnow had two doubles and three RBI for Stevenson's.

Winning pitcher Bobby Mack helped his own cause with a home run, two singles and three RBI as Teo's breezed past Virgilio's 23-5. Mike Crosier contributed a double, two singles and four RBI for Teo's. Dan Cohn belted a home run for Virgilio's.

Dennis Strizzi helped himself to a win on the mound when he had a single and an RBI in Burger King's 12-9 triumph over East Side Pizza. Kamienski had a double and single while Cameron Collins added two hits and three RBI for East Side.

Peetros and Mike DeMarsico each had a double and a single as the Italian-American Club rolled over Teo's 8-1. Matt Rice was the winning pitcher.

Tim Righi cracked a home run, double and single and finished with four RBI as City Savings downed Tank Shop 8-7. Chad Meunier gained the win on the mound and knocked in two runs with a pair of hits for the Bankers, who broke a 7-7 tie in the last of the sixth.

West Little League

Scott Filiault socked a home run and added a single as Itam outslugged J. Colvin Glass 21-16 in the Pittsfield West Little League.

Jason Murray added two hits for Itam, while Matt Murray gained the win on the mound. Gerry Broderick pounded out three hits for Colvin's.

Winning pitcher Mike Eastland banged out a pair of hits as Parkside rolled over Jimmy's Restaurant 17-2, while a two-hit effort by Mike Stevens helped lift Jimmy's Restaurant to a 12-4 triumph over J. Colvin Glass. David Bilodeau was the wining pitcher for Jimmy's, while Dan McCue had a pair of hits for Colvin's.

Mike Kelley tossed a three-hitter and Micah Powell had two hits, including a home run, as Itam posted a 9-2 triumph over Jimmy's, while Eric Stone had two hits to support winning pitcher Mike Eastland as Parkside topped Colvin's 7-2. Gerry Broderick had two hits, including a homer, for the losers. 6/6/88

Little League baseball

Lee reaches finals; Williamstown wins

Williamstown posted a dramatic 11-10 extra-inning win over Pittsfield West, and Lee reached the county championship game with an 11-8 semifinal win over Dalton-Hinsdale last night in the Berkshire County Little League Baseball Tournament.

Lee scored five runs in the second inning, and got a double and single from Jamie Shepardson to highlight last night's semifinal victory in Hinsdale. Lee will host the county championship game Monday at 6 p.m. against the winner of tonight's semifinal game that features Williamstown at Cheshire at 6 p.m.

Williamstown and Pittsfield West, halted by darkness after six innings of an 8-8 tie Wednesday and rained out Thursday, needed only one dramatic inning to settle things last night at Clapp Park.

West, the visiting team as decided by a coin toss, scored two runs in the top of the seventh to go ahead 10-8, as Micah Powell had a double and Joel Mullett an RBI single. In the bottom of the seventh, Joel Glogonski's RBI single capped a three-run Williamstown rally that also featured a double by winning pitcher Trevor Bayliss and a single by Colin O'Neil. Powell finished with three hits to pace the West team.

South Little League

Tom Righi was the big gun in three recent South Little League victories by City Savings Bank, striking out seven in a 9-6 win over Teo's, knocking in four runs with a homer, double and two singles in a 15-6 win over Virgilio's and driving in seven runs with a homer and three doubles in a 20-7 conquest of Stevenson's.

Jon Zolkowski got the win over Virgilio's, and Chad Munier added three hits and two RBI and Jeff Hiltpold two hits and two RBI. Ivan Olchowski had three hits and three RBI and Jeff French and John Duda two hits each for Virgilio's.

Hiltpold drove in four runs with a triple and single against Teo's, which got two hits and two RBI from Dede Powell. Mike Cimini had a homer, two singles and four RBI and Pat Quinn four hits to back winning pitcher Todd Lampiasi against Stevenson's, which got two hits from Todd Lange and three RBI from Tim Scott.

Burger King chalked up two wins, 16-14 over Tank Shop and 13-1 over Stevenson's. Dennis Strizzi had a double, triple and two singles and Tyrone Lawless a double, two singles and five RBI to back Tim Latini in the win over Tank Shop, which got a homer, triple, single and five RBI from Dave Brahmer and three hits from Dario Arace.

Strizzi had two hits and four RBI and Lawless drove in three runs to support winner Frank Scago against Stevenson's.

Josh Smith had a homer and two RBI and Scott Petros got the win as Italian American Club won 4-1 over Stevenson's.

Brett Kamienski pitched a four-hitter and struck out nine as East Side Pizza won 7-1 over Teo's. Cameron Collins and Brendan Ryan had two hits apiece for East Side and bob Mack had two hits for Teo's. 7-23-88

Department. John Pierce and Jason Burke each had three hits, while Handy had two doubles and a triple for the Fire Department.

Keith Levy had three doubles among his four hits as the Elks Club defeated Dave's Sporting Goods 10-8. The Elks scored five runs in the sixth inning to win. Dave Phelps and Chris Casuscelli each had a home run and a double in a losing effort.

Colt Insurance defeated Dave's Sporting goods 14-10, as Bessette had three hits and Scott Backer had two. Evan Campbell led the way for Dave's with three safeties while Tim Kearns added two.

Matt Bashara and Mike LaForest each had two hits as the Police Department downed Colt Insurance 15-4. Joe Keen and Chris Campoli had two hits each for Colt.

Besse-Clarke defeated Dave's Sporting Goods 11-7, with Dave Ferguson helping the Besse cause with two hits. Kevin Avanzato had two hits for Dave's.

Josh Smith, Peter Harris and Josh Baker had two hits each as the Elks Club downed the Police Department 12-7. LaForest, Shawn Wood and Pat Mickle had two hits apiece for the Police. 9-10-88

North Little League

PITTSFIELD — Mark Handy pitched a one-hitter as the Pittsfield Fire Department defeated the Police 8-1 in North Little League action. The lone hit off Handy was a bunt single by Jeff Dames, the game's leadoff batter. Handy helped his own cause with a triple and two singles.

Jeff Kellar's home run triggered a four-run sixth inning as Besse-Clarke defeated Colt Insurance 11-9. Nathan Backer had two triples for Colt, while Mike Bessette had one three-bagger.

A seven-run sixth inning broke open a 13-13 tie and gave Besse-Clarke a 20-13 win over the Fire

Jimmy's tops Besse-Clarke for city Little League title

PITTSFIELD — Bryan Furlong's three-run double highlighted a 10-run third inning that lifted West League champion Jimmy's Restaurant to a 15-7 win over North champion Besse-Clarke Monday night in the championship game of the Pittsfield Little League.

David Bilodeau struck out nine batters to earn the complete-game win, and Bryan Micelli collected three hits to lead the winners. Losing pitcher Jeff Kellar led Besse-Clarke with five hits.

To reach the championship game, Besse-Clarke had posted a 13-6 win over South League champion East Side Pizza in Friday's preliminary round. Winning pitcher Dave Ferguson struck out nine and led his team's offense with three hits. In a losing cause, Bret Kamienski struck out 11 batters and Cam Collins collected three hits for East Side. 8-10-88

Delayed decision

Whatever the merits of a former Pittsfield West Little League coach's charge that he lost his position in 1985 because of racism, the fact that it took the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination three years to decide there is "sufficient evidence" to support that accusation is distressing. Is the commission so undermanned that a case like this, which may have been considered of secondary importance because it doesn't involve a person's career or freedom of choice in housing, gets put on a back burner? 10-22-88

Little League

East Side takes South League title

8/4/88

East Side Pizza won three times in a week to wrap up the second half championship of the Pittsfield South Little League.

Since East Side also won the first half crown, it captured the overall league championship by gaining the second half title. In another South Little League highlight, John Vincent threw a no-hitter and struck out 18 batters in the Italian American Club's 17-0 thrashing of Tank Shop.

homered and chased in two runs to back the no-hit pitching of Vincent. Matt Rice contributed three singles and three RBI.

Vincent struck out the maximum number of batters in his spectacular effort and walked just three.

Winning pitcher Kris Smith tripled, singled twice and knocked in three runs and Todd Lange chased in three teammates with a double and a single in Stevenson's narrow 12-11 decision over Tank Shop. For Tank Shop, Dave Brahmer homered, doubled and knocked in four runs and Jack Vanesse and Eric Kirk each brought in three runs with two singles and a double apiece.

Chris Hurlbutt rapped a double and three singles and collected five RBI as Teo's pounded Virgilio's 22-2. Winning pitcher Mike Crosier helped his cause with a triple, double, single and four RBI and Dede Powell brought in three runs with two singles.

French, Jason Kilmer and Olchowski singled for Virgilio's.

Brett Kamienski shut out Virgilio's 3-0 in the game that clinched the second-half crown. Mike Jones and Cameron Collins singled in runs for the winners, while Ivan Olchowski and John Duda collected singles for Virgilio's.

Chattin Ricchi singled in Kamienski with the winning run in the ninth inning as East Side outslugged Virgilio's 16-15 in an extra inning thriller. The teams were tied 14-14 after the regulation six innings and were deadlocked 15-15 after seven innings.

Brendon Ryan homered and winning pitcher Marc Pictrowski doubled and singled for East Side, while Jeff French knocked in four runs with a single, double and triple and Matt Sloane doubled and singled for Virglio's.

Cameron Carr homered and singled and Kamienski and Ricchi singled twice each as East Side downed City Savings Bank 10-4. Mike Cimini homered and singled for City Savings off winning pitcher Dave Fields.

Josh Smith homered and knocked in three runs and Andy Harrison

SPORTS

* * * *

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL: The Pittsfield West Little League will hold an organizational meeting tonight at 7 at West Side Community School to begin planning for the 1989 season.

All parents, coaches and league officers are invited. 11-16-88

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West Little League to have meeting

PITTSFIELD — Parents of returning West Little League players will meet with coaches and officers tomorrow night to discuss the upcoming season. The meeting will be at the West Side Community Center at 7. 11-15-88

West Little League

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I am appalled at the shameful situation concerning a dedicated group of people and the West Little League [Eagle, Nov. 1]. They are unjustly accused of discrimination in the due process of Little League regulations. The board members took appropriate action in the dismissal of a coach according to the rules that have been implemented for the past decade.

To question the integrity of this board that has over 50 years of community experience is totally ludicrous. The board made a unanimous decision for the betterment of the West Little League based on the incidents and facts alone. I only hope that this distasteful fiasco does not deter its continuing loyalty to the youth of Pittsfield and the West Little League.

JOHN GARZONE
16 South Merriam St.
Pittsfield 11-10-88

Little League coaching

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

During my 13 years of coaching youth baseball and basketball, I have had numerous professional experiences with three of the West Little League board members, Ralph Stannard, John Shaughnessy and Dave Filippi. I have followed with concerned interest, and ultimate disgust, the racial discriminaton issue filed against them and the league by David Williams [Eagle, Nov. 1].

I have never heard or witnessed any behavior on their part that would even suggest that race was a factor in any league decision-making policies that would affect the youth of this city.

I hate to imagine how much of an effect this could have on the youth programs in this city seeking volunteer help.

DONALD B. DUQUETTE
87 Brooks Ave.
Pittsfield 12/8/88

Youth baseball roundup

Phelps's homers spark Dave's

Dale Phelps cracked two home runs, one a grand slam, as Dave's Sporting Goods rolled to a 16-6 win over Colt Insurance in the Pittsfield North Little League.

Winning pitcher Tim Kearns added three hits including a homer to the Dave's attack.

In other North action, Jeff Kellar and Dan Del Gallo had three hits apiece as Besse-Clarke rolled past Fire Department by a 15-4 count. Dave Savino earned the pitching win. Kevin Sherman banged out a pair of hits for the Firemen.

Mike LaForest and winning pitcher Pat Mickle each had three hits as the Police Department outlasted Dave's Sporting Goods 15-11. Phelps had two hits including a homer for Dave's.

Kellar helped his own cause with a trio of hits as Besse-Clarke downed Colt Insurance by a 14-6 count. Mike Paris added two hits for Besse's. Chris Campoli banged out three hits to lead Colt.

Mickle and Shaun Wood combined on a four-hitter while LaForest pounded out a pair of hits as the Police Department slipped past Besse-Clarke 3-2. Dave Ferguson had a pair of hits for Besse's.

Peter Boyd had two hits and Shane Harrington gained the win on the mound as the Elks topped the Fire Department 12-10. Tony Beaulieu had four of ths 15 hits for the Firemen.

Phelps' two-run homer keyed a three-run fifth inning as Dave's edged Police Department 11-10. Chris Casuscelli gained the pitching victory. Ben Colwell, Shawn Wood and Mike LaForest each had a pair of hits for Police.

Beaulieu had four hits and Kevin Sherman added three hits including a three-run double as the Fire Department rolled past the Elks 13-7. Ryan Christopher gained the pitching triumph for Fire Department, which nailed down the win with a sixth-inning triple play.

Dalton Little League

Winning pitcher Jeremy Lamb went 4-for-4 offensively as the Dalton VFW raced past Hinsdale 14-3 in the Dalton-Hinsdale Little League. Lamb's production included three doubles, a home run and five RBI.

Todd Rose cracked a home run VFW edged Crane and Co. 7-6. Brendan Farrell was the winning pitcher.

In other action, Dave Riddell had a pair of hits as the American Legion downed First Aggie Bank 4-2, Brian Duquette gained the pitching win as the Legion topped Dalton Police Association 9-8, and First Aggie Bank defeated Becket 16-10. 10/24/88

Youth baseball

Zatorski lifts Hermann's

Shaun Zatorski delivered a single, double and two RBI as Quality Auto Body outlasted Hermann's Restaurant 14-12 in the Pittsfield 13-year-old Babe Ruth League.

Relief pitcher Tim Reynolds gained the victory for Quality, while Steve Thompson had four hits and drove in three runs for Hermann's.

In other 13-year-old action, winning pitcher Chris Mastrodicasa helped his own cause with a pair of hits as Alexander's downed Lipton Energy 5-1. Shaun Dwyer racked up 12 strikeouts in five innings despite taking the loss on the mound.

A four-hit effort by Kevin O'Donnell led Im-Press Printing to a 15-14 triumph over Gildo's Auto Body. Bill Murphy had the mound victory for the Printers, who scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the seventh inning. Sean Ladley and Tim Hart each had three hits for Gildo's.

Mastrodicasa and Brad Rathbun banged out two hits apiece as Alexander's rolled past Quality Auto by an 8-1 count. Jeff Zuccalo went five innings to get the win. 5/22/88

SOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE: Thomas Barnaby has been elected president of the board of directors of the South Little League for the coming season. He said volunteers are still needed to fill the league's positions of equipment manager, field maintenance manager and safety officer. Interested volunteers should contact Barnaby. 3/13/88

Ray Lamont

SIDESTEPPING sliding Pittsfield runner Matt Risley, right, Westfield third baseman Pat O'Learcek backs off after getting a force-out during yesterday's Western Mass. tournament game at Wahconah Park. Westfield defeated PHS 6-4. 4/10/88